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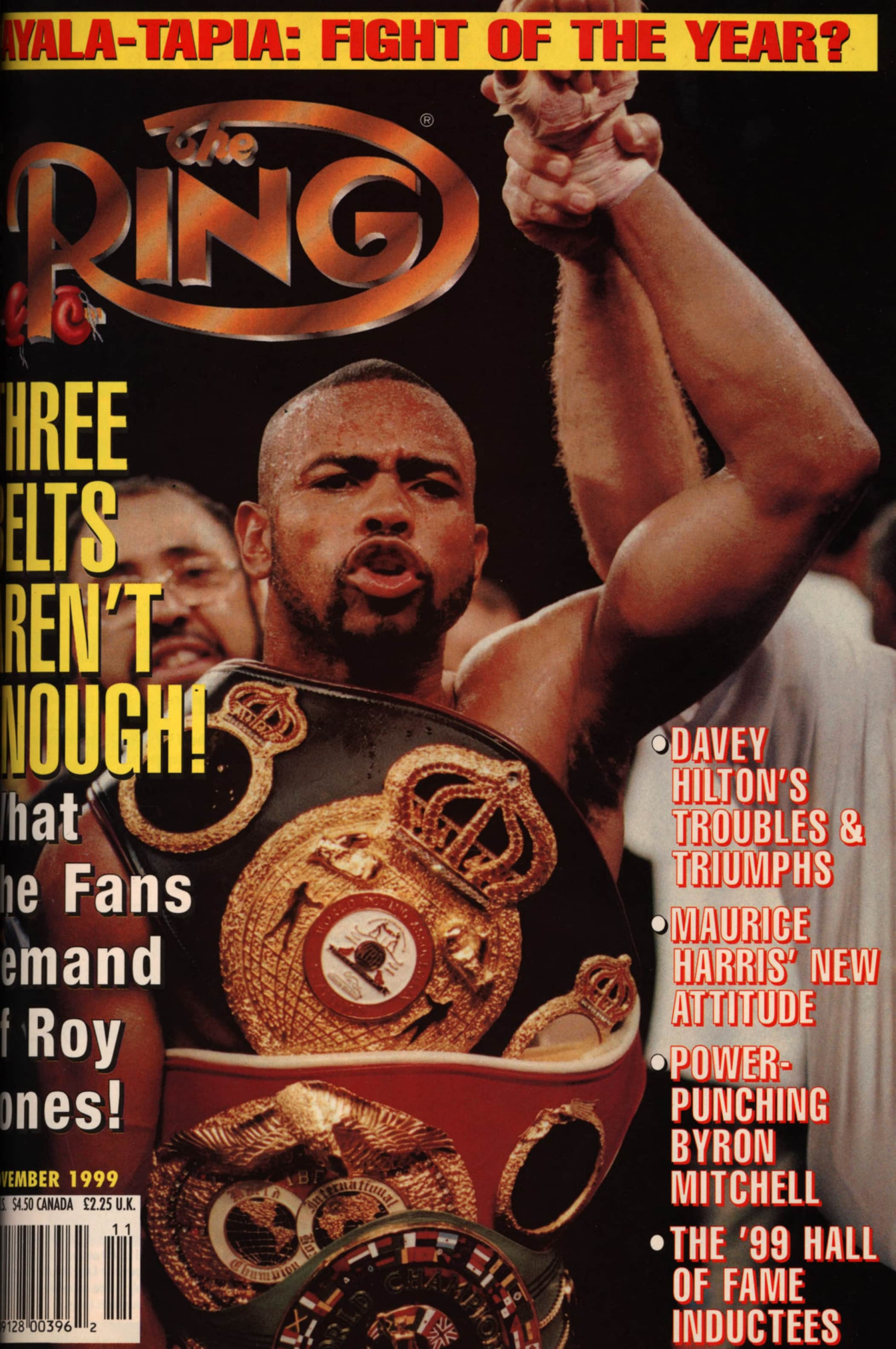

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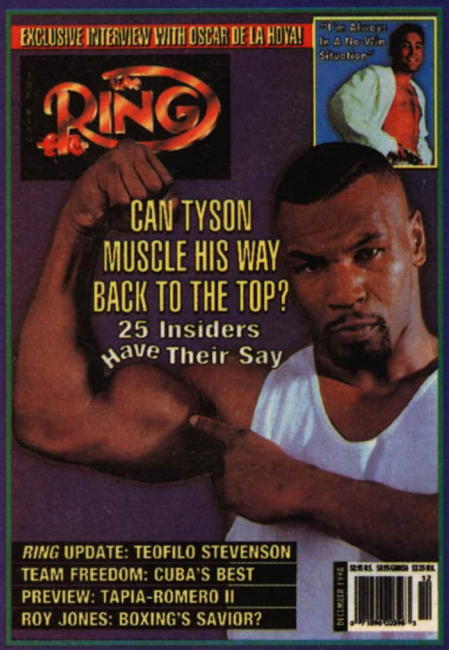

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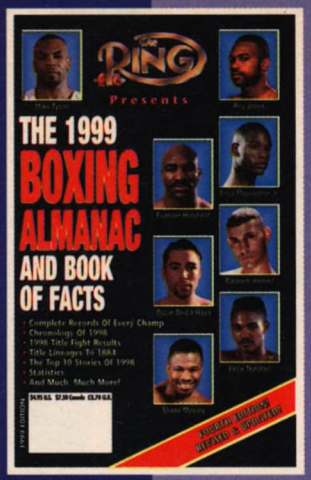

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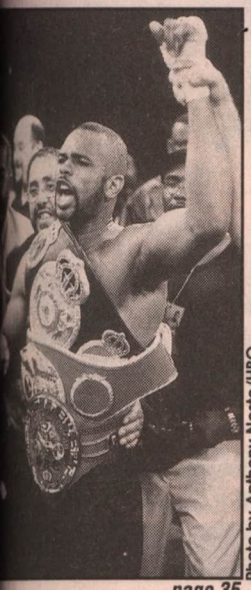

Photo by Anthony Neste/HBO

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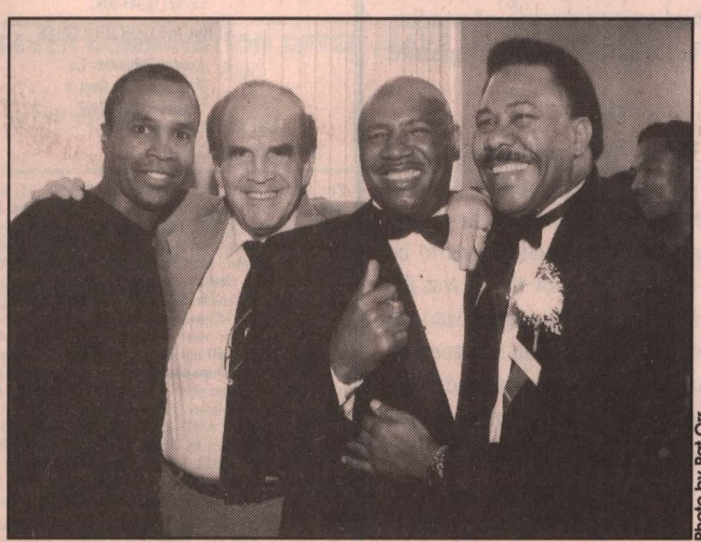

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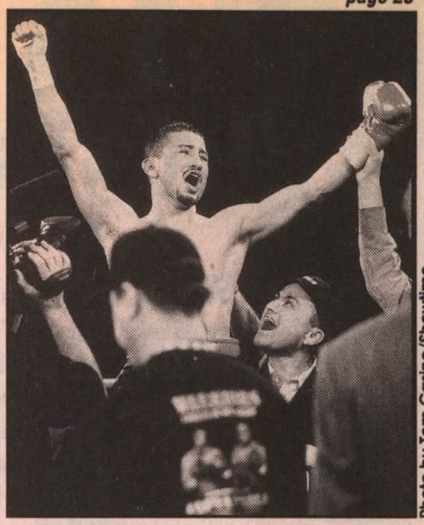

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RINGSIDE

With the Oscar De La Hoya-Felix Trinidad fight less than a month away, maybe it's a good time to ponder the effect a Trinidad victory would have on the business side of the Sweet Science. If Felix wins in an exciting, closely contested fight, everything would be on hold until there was a rematch, and maybe even a rubber match. But if "Tito" destroys "The Golden Boy" in the emphatic manner the IBF champ's supporters believe he will, boxing will find itself with a void so big, not even a battalion of Butterbeans could fill it.

True, Trinidad has a strong fan-base among Puerto Ricans and the anti-Oscar clique, but it's nowhere near large enough to compensate for those who will be lost if De La Hoya gets his pretty face bashed in. If Oscar goes down, so does the best spokesman boxing has had since Sugar Ray Leonard. It will mean goodbye to milk mustaches, the cover of *Newsweek*, and football stadiums filled with screaming females. And anybody who thinks that Felix will take his place doesn't know squat about how Madison Avenue works.

Of course, a fighter's marquee value should not have anything to do with what transpires once the bell rings. Even the perception of favoritism would do more damage to the sport than the loss of one of its most bankable superstars. The Lennox Lewis-Evander Holyfield decision was a crippling blow to the game's already dubious integrity, and the last thing boxing needs is another scandal. Therefore, my most fervent hope for September 18 is that the most deserving fighters wins—even if he's not the guy who sells the most tickets or has the biggest endorsement portfolio.

***

A curious situation is developing in the heavyweight division. In July, as interested parties struggled to put together the Lewis-Holyfield rematch, leading contenders Ike Ibeabuchi and Michael Grant seemed on the verge of agreeing to fight each other. And even though Lewis-Holyfield II should, barring another fiasco, result in the crowning of an undisputed heavyweight champion, in the eyes of many the winner won't be considered the best heavyweight in the world. That distinction will belong to the Grant-Ibeabuchi winner. And that's not all. When you factor in the excitement generated by the aforementioned De La Hoya-Trinidad welterweight showdown, the second Lewis-Holyfield meeting ranks a distant third among the trio of pending superfights, especially in terms of fan anticipation. When's the last time that happened to a heavyweight unification bout?

***

What a pity that the magnificent fight between Paulie Ayala and Johnny Tapia turned out to be a financial loser for Bob Arum's Top Rank. I don't know if Arum approved the commercial for the SET pay-per-view event, but if he didn't, he should fire whoever did. While it's true that hardly anybody expected Ayala-Tapia to be quite as good as it turned out, you didn't have to be a genius to know that it was the best match on the card. But instead of hyping the main event, the ads emphasized the Butterbean vs. Peter McNeeley farce and *Playboy* model Mia St. John's statuesque curves. The promo made it seem more like a freak show than a boxing card, and that's always a mistake. It's okay to try to entice the peripheral fans with gimmicks, but foolish to lose sight of what's really important, and that's real fighters in real fights.

Nigel Collins
Editor-in-Chief

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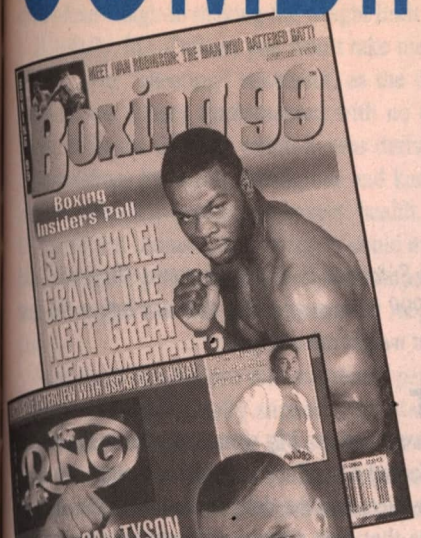

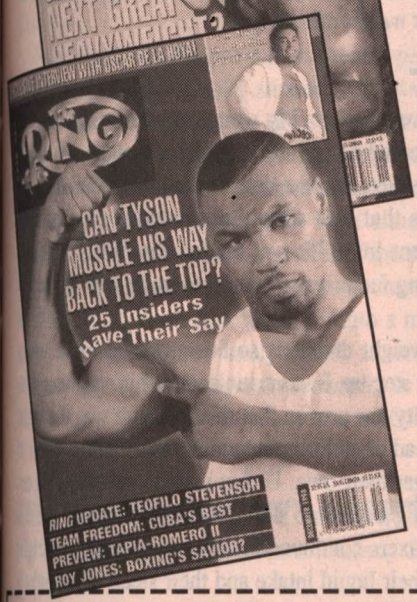

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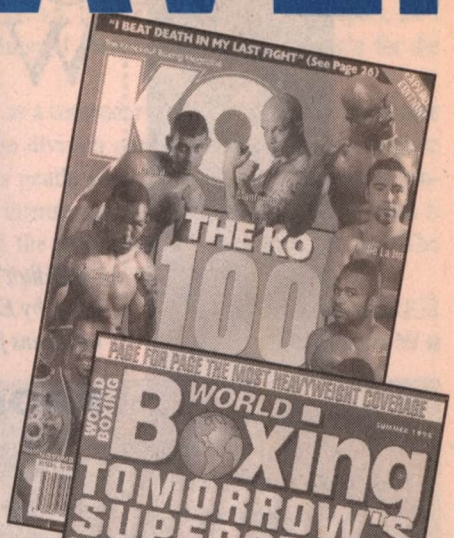

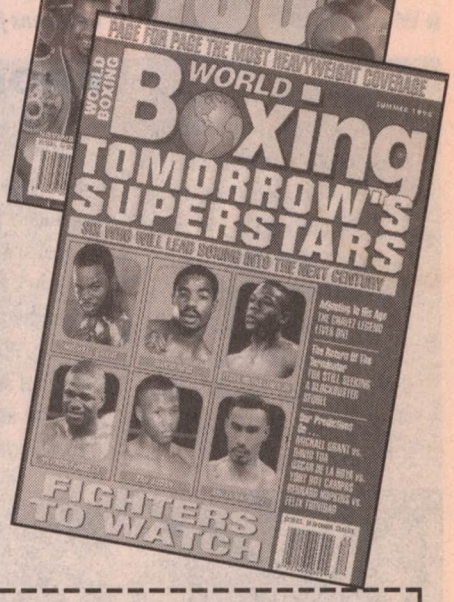

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COME OUT WRITING

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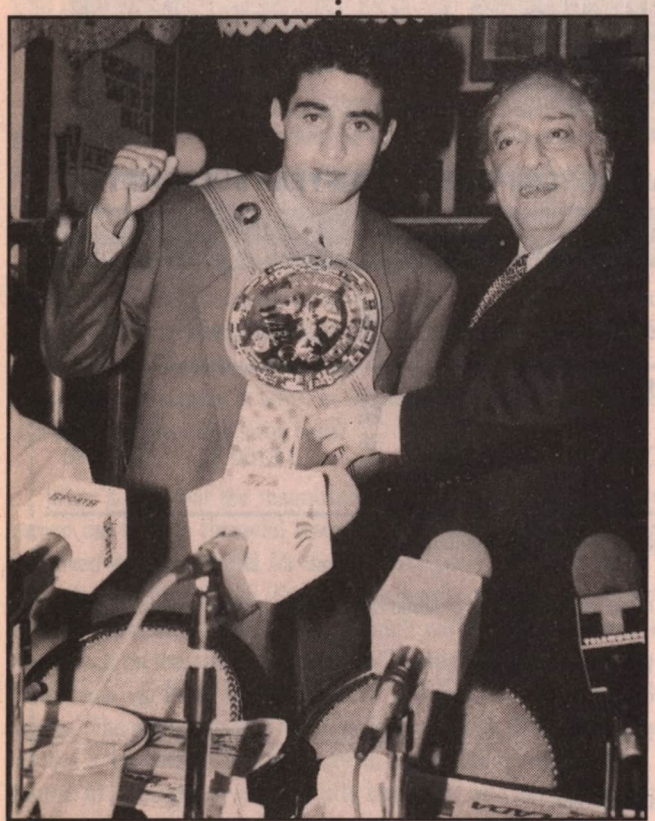
(Editor's note: This letter from WBC President Jose Sulaiman is in response to a "Ringside" editorial by Editor-in-Chief Nigel Collins in the March 1999 issue suggesting that day-before-the-fight weigh-ins frequently give one of the boxers a significant weight advantage.)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I have lived close to many of my best friends who were boxers. My worst experience has been to witness the inhuman sacrifice that many have been forced to endure to make a weight that is no longer physically suitable. I have known of unbearable diets and the dehydration of boxers through enemas, steambaths, and wrappings in humid rooms that was simply unthinkable to continue. Therefore, right after my selection as WBC president in 1975, we created the WBC Medical Advisory Board, which concluded that the overwhelming majority of injuries were caused by excessive dehydration.

The WBC's first step was to create intermediate weight divisions so boxers could move up in short but safe moves, instead of doing it in a drastic big step up. I was criticized as this was interpreted as an attempt to collect more sanction fees, but reality has proven that this measure was the right one, as boxers don't hesitate to move up in weight instead of enduring inhumane sacrifices to keep at a weight that is no longer their own. Unfortunately, several TV corporations kept pressuring boxers to delay their moving up, for the sake of business. So, boxers continued undergoing merciless weight reductions by limiting their liquid intake and their sleep hours only a few hours prior to the fight, being so weak that their performance in the ring was a fraud to the fans who pay to see the best shows. And all this hurt not only the health of the athletes, but also the image of the sport.



WBC President Jose Sulaiman (with WBC super bantamweight champ Erik Morales) strongly feels that day-before weigh-ins are in the best interests of the fighters who dehydrate themselves to make weight.

The WBC's next measure was to implement the 24-hour weigh-in prior to bouts, which would allow boxers to rehydrate. We began in Japan, Puerto Rico, and then in Asia and Europe, and we saw how boxers would rehydrate and thus, be stronger and faster, and we made this official in 1989. Afterward, we organized the First Boxing World Medical Congress in Aruba in 1997, where the 300 best medical specialists from 83 nations and prominent lecturers from UCLA and England emphatically sustained that fatigue was the most dangerous enemy of boxers.

An overwhelming majority of boxers have called this rule the best ever for safety. So, three important steps were adopted: a) intermediate divisions; b) the 12-round rule; and c) the 24-hour weigh-in, all of these based on the fatigue issue.

But not fully satisfied, our Medical Advisory Board kept researching and strongly recommended one more rule regarding control of weight, comprising the following: a) extra official weigh-in 30 days prior to the bout, with a limit of seven percent overweight; b) extra official weigh-in seven days prior to the bout, with no more than three percent overweight; and c) final official 24-hour weigh-in to make the weight limit of the division. After many meetings, the

WBC Board of Governors approved unanimously this rule during our convention in Johannesburg in 1998, with an amendment: a) 30 days with 10 percent overweight up to the year 2000, and seven percent in 2001; b) seven-day weigh-in, with five percent overweight up to the year 2000 and three percent in 2001; and c) official 24-hour weigh-in making the weight limit of the division.

Hopefully, Mr. Collins, you won't take me wrong by disagreeing with your "cheating" statement, as the old six-to-eight-hour weigh-in was simply implemented with no explanation nor any reason, while the 24-hour weigh-in was derived from medical recommendations by highly prestigious and knowledgeable specialists in an attempt to protect the boxers' health. Yes, you are right. I fully agree that trainers and managers could avoid the safety problem by obligating their fighters to get in shape and contend at their natural weight, but not all of them are Angelo Dundee or Gil Clancy.

Now, don't you believe that our recent periodical weigh-in rule would substantially support your statement on top-shape boxers? I think it will, and you are absolutely right on this aspect. We fully support the ideal expressed in your article, but we are bound to do whatever is necessary, in accordance with circumstances, if an ideal situation cannot be attained due to questionable practices of the people involved. The WBC has taken at least 20 years to change boxing from its savagery 25 years ago, turning it into a more humanized sport, and we feel profoundly proud, as we are formed by people who love boxing in many countries in the world.

JOSE SULAIMAN
Juarez, Mexico

FIFTH WORST AIN'T BAD

I am responding to THE RING Readers' Poll in the June 1999 issue.

What does the statistical tabulation *really* indicate, given that I was voted the fifth-worst ring announcer in boxing, when my mentor, Michael Buffer, was voted best and worst? It sounds rather ... discombobulating to me! Does it mean the fans disliked my colleagues Buffer, Mark Beiro, Jimmy Lennon Jr., and Ed Derian more than they disliked me? Or does it insinuate that, as the most prominent African-American ring announcer in the game (and the only one to announce a televised world title bout in boxing history: Mark "Too Sharp" Johnson vs. Arthur "Flash" Johnson at the D.C. Armory, February 1998), that, at long last, and after doing undercards with my aforementioned brethren for the past 10 years, I am now included in a very select company?

Whatever the case, allow me to express my gratitude for including me in your rankings. Yes, that's right. Thanks! At least you spelled a very disconcerting name correctly, and my first mentor, the late, great loquacious one himself, Mr. Howard Cosell, would be proud.

By the way, just as undisputed light heavyweight champ Roy Jones is considered the best pound-for-pound, I am striving hard to become the best sound-for-sound. Hopefully, one day, all of you will have to keep up with these Joneses!

DIS-COM-BOB-U-LATING JONES
Washington, D.C.

IKE IN 2000

It was a pleasant surprise to see Ike Ibeabuchi displace Michael Grant as the number-three ranked heavyweight in THE RING's July ratings. Let's hope this marks the beginning of a trend. Not to dismiss the physically gifted Grant, who at some point will likely wear the division's crown, but for the welfare of the sport, let's celebrate the coronation of Ibeabuchi as the heavyweight for the new millennium.

As Grant's stock as a contender has risen, so too has his degree of complacency. The division needs someone who will reignite past glory. Whereas gentle giant Grant won't fight unless provoked, Ibeabuchi is intense and explosive at all times. So when it comes time to elect the next great heavyweight, vote for "The President" and say, "I like Ike in 2000."

JONATHAN MORRIS
Old Bridge, NJ ■

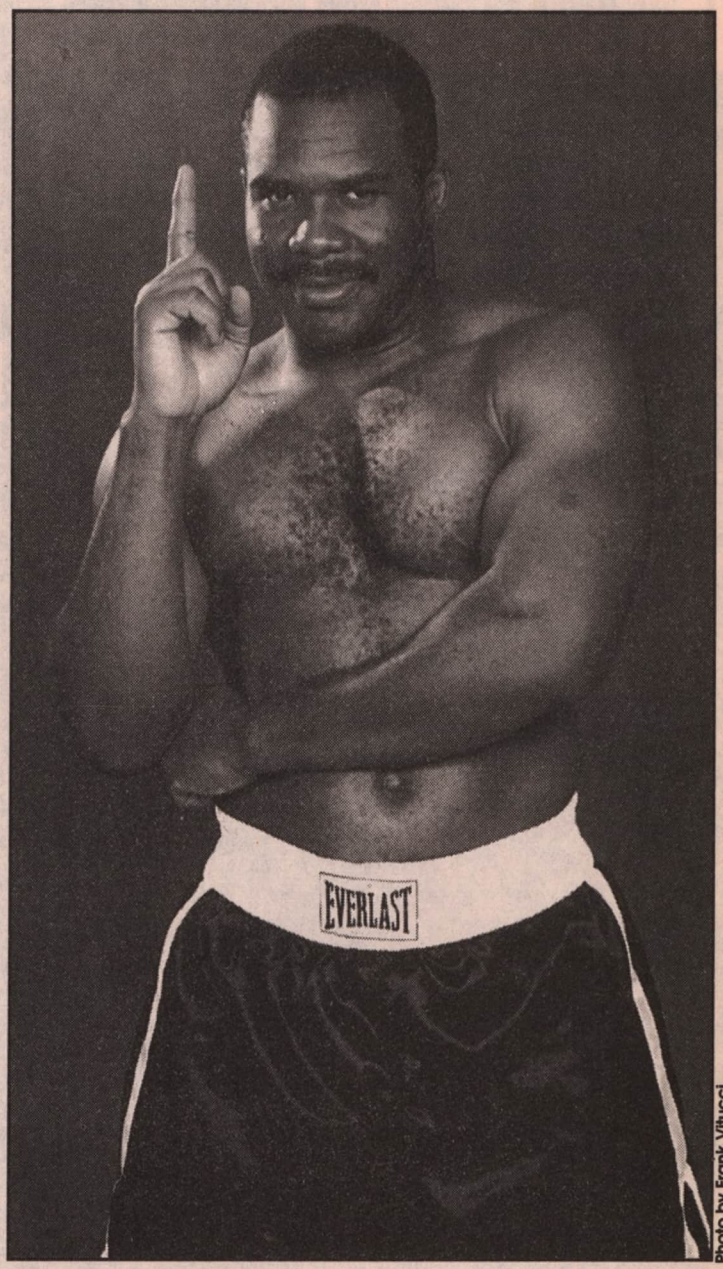


Photo by Frank Vitucci

Michael Grant better watch out, writes reader Jonathan Morris. A growing number of fight fans are getting tired of Grant's complacency in the ring and are starting to back Ike "The President" Ibeabuchi as the heavyweight of the future.

ROUND ONE

BOXING HISTORY GOES UP IN FLAMES

It was around 1:30 a.m. on June 25, and almost everybody in the residential neighborhood except Mike Clancy was asleep. Clancy watched in disbelief as a beat-up old pickup truck with three men inside stopped outside the Philadelphia office of promoter J Russell Peltz. Two of the men got out and threw Molotov Cocktails through the front window of Peltz' office. When the incendiary devices failed to ignite, one of the men calmly returned to the truck for another. The third firebomb exploded, sending a wall of flame shooting three stories high.

"It looked like something out of a movie," said Clancy.

It was no movie for Peltz' longtime assistant, Maureen Sacks, who was asleep on the second floor of the building. Alerted by firemen pounding on the door, Sacks and her boyfriend escaped unharmed. Sadly, the same could not be said for part of Peltz' priceless memorabilia collection, widely considered among the top three or four in the world. Among the items destroyed by the fire were 11 oil paintings by C.R. Schaare that were originally commissioned by Nat Fleischer as covers for THE RING in the 1930s. Irreplaceable fight posters of Joe Louis, Bob Montgomery, and Beau Jack also went up in flames, along with approximately 50 other cherished pieces, estimated to be worth $100,000.

Peltz, ESPN2's boxing consultant, was in Connecticut overseeing a match between Vinny Pazienza and Esteban Cervantes when the arsonists struck, but immediately drove back to Philly when he got the news from Sacks, who called him on her cell phone from the sidewalk outside the burning building.

"Somebody doesn't like me," said Peltz, who, as Philadelphia's foremost promoter for the last 30 years, has earned a reputation for honesty and blood-and-guts matchmaking. The 52-year-old Peltz has enemies and acknowledges that he has received threats from time to time.

"But nothing that would precipitate somebody firebombing your building," said Peltz. "Jeez, that's not like somebody saying, 'I'm going to beat you up.'"

Peltz, whose office was a veritable boxing museum, has given the police a list of people who have threatened him, but as of press time, no arrests had been made.

—Nigel Collins

Photo by Frank Vitucci

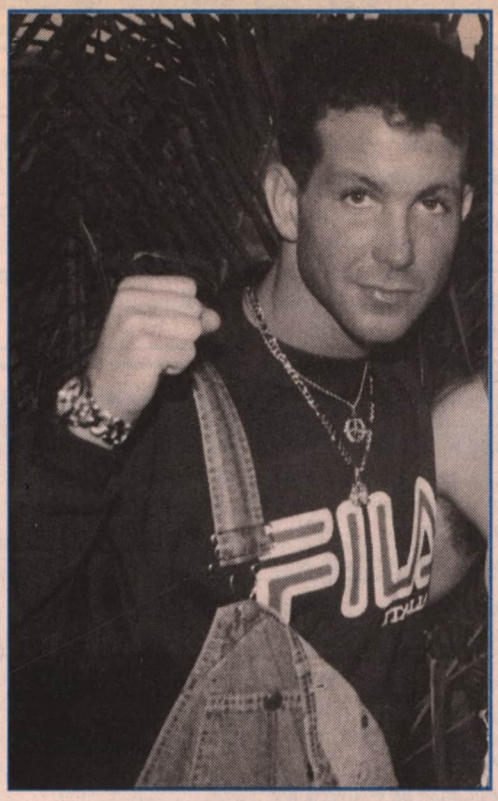
Peltz and his memorabilia before the disaster

GIANT KILLER

The Michael Grant-Lou Savarese fight was the perfect metaphor for the trials and tribulations Grant Elvis Phillips, the founder of the Grant boxing equipment company, has experienced the last three years at the hands of boxing equipment giant Everlast. Unbeaten heavyweight Grant, in Grant gloves, pummelled Savarese, who was wearing Everlast gloves, on June 26 at Madison Square Garden.

Phillips, likewise, pounded Everlast, which has an estimated 70 percent share of the market, with a lawsuit that claimed Everlast was running a smear campaign to discredit him and his company. On June 14, Everlast acquiesced and agreed to a high six-figure out-of-court settlement.

"I'm very proud to get this monkey off my back," Phillips said. "As far as the money is concerned, that's not the object here. The settlement is done, and it just goes to prove all of this was nonsense. I think the most important thing here is that Everlast is like a Nike, they obviously know what's coming, and if I'm allowed to grow, it shows I'm a threat to their empire. To do the things they tried to keep me down, some people told me I should have been flattered. But when doors start closing in your face because of lies, it's not too flattering anymore.



Phillips dealt a knockout blow to Everlast

"I just wanted to clear my name and clear the name of Grant Elvis Enterprises and my equipment, and stop all the bad-mouthing. It's very hard to fight back against an 800-pound gorilla like Everlast. They are a giant in the industry. It was like David and Goliath. I fought the good fight."

Abe Rychik, Everlast's attorney, could not comment on the settlement, but did confirm that a settlement was made. "We've chosen not to comment, and both sides are bonded by confidentiality to the amount [of the settlement]," Rychik said.

—Joe Santoliquito

NIELSEN'S NOSEDIVE

Beaten four times in 51 bouts against a low standard of opposition, Dick Ryan was brought to Denmark to be a footnote in boxing history. That is if you considered heavyweight Brian Nielsen's march to 49-0 "historic."

Danish promoter Mogens Palle did, and he wasted little opportunity in promoting the fight in Copenhagen on June 18 as Nielsen's attempt to eclipse Rocky Marciano's all-time heavyweight record by reaching the magical half century unbeaten. But the 34-year-old Big White Dane finally came a cropper, and was stopped, having reached the point of exhaustion in the 10th round. Even cutting 15 seconds off the ninth round, which someone conveniently did, failed to save him.

Ahead on points all the way, having punched Ryan systematically to the brink of a knockout, Nielsen's conditioning let him down so badly he collapsed and had to be rushed to the hospital, where he was put on a life-support machine. Given the fact that his corner, led by former Sugar Ray Leonard and Lennox Lewis trainer Pepe Correa, had persuaded him to give it three more minutes after he wanted to quit at the end of the ninth, there was grave concern over his condition and possible recrimination. But Nielsen completed a full recovery and was discharged from the hospital three days later.

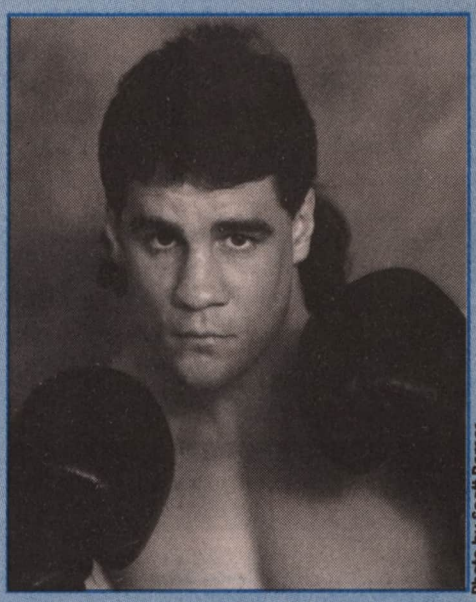


Photo by Scott Romer

Ryan scored a win for Marciano when he kayoed Nielson

"I could box within two weeks," he said before being driven home. "The reason I lost was through my own fault. It wasn't because Ryan beat me. If Mike Tyson is ready on September 4, I won't hesitate to take him on."

The circumstances of this defeat, and the opponent who inflicted it, didn't hesitate to show another thing, too: The Rock's 49-0 and Nielsen's 49-0 (pre-Ryan) belong no nearer to one another in the annals of fist-fighting than the distance between Brockton and Copenhagen. If Nielsen had gotten to 149-0, against the guys he fights, there would still be that distance.

—Brian Doogan

TV FIGHTS OF THE MONTH

DATE	WINNER/LOSER	NETWORK	DIVISION	SIGNIFICANCE	MATCHUP	RESULT
6-18-99	Hector Camacho W 10 P.J. Goossen	ESPN2	jm	D-	C-	F
*How many more Camacho borefests is **Friday Night Fights** going to subject us to?*						
6-19-99	Maurice Harris W 10 Jeremy Williams	HBO	h	C+	B-	B+
Upset! Williams' soft chin does him in again; good showing for Harris						
6-19-99	Michael Grant W 10 Lou Savarese	HBO	h	A-	B-	C-
Grant's stock goes down with ugly but one-sided victory						
6-19-99	Joel Casamayor W 12 Antonio Hernandez	FOXSN	jl	B-	C	C
Casamayor sharp in unanimous-decision win; title shot around the corner						
6-19-99	Billy Costello W 10 Juan LaPorte	PPV	m	F	C+	B
Costello, almost stopped early, gets gift nod						
6-19-99	Greg Page KO 7 Tim Witherspoon	PPV	h	F	C+	D
Anyone else think these two would have been better suited for a wet T-shirt contest?						
6-19-99	Larry Holmes KO 8 Bonecrusher Smith	PPV	h	F	C-	D+
Holmes hasn't got much, but he's still got the jab; against Smith, it's enough						
6-21-99	Luis Perez KO 7 Rosemberg Palacios	FOXSN	jw	C+	B+	A
Floored in the first, Perez battles back to kayo Palacios in wild brawl						
6-25-99	Vinny Pazienza W 10 Esteban Cervantes	ESPN2	sm	C+	C+	B-
We thought Cervantes did enough to win, but Paz can't lose at the Foxwoods						
6-26-99	Yory Boy Campas W 10 Ronald Weaver	PPV	jm	B-	C	B+
Those black boxes they put in airplanes have nothing on Weaver's jaw						
6-26-99	Mia St. John W 4 Mary Ann Haik	PPV	f	D	F	D
No, she can't fight, not even a little, but do you care? Neither do we						
6-26-99	**Stevie Johnston W 12 Aldo Rios**	**PPV**	**WBC l**	**A-**	**C-**	**F**
Awful performance for Johnston doesn't bode well for fight with Angel Manfredy						
6-26-99	Butterbean KO 1 Peter McNeeley	PPV	h	F	B	C
Butterbean wants Tyson? We'd settle for a rematch with Mitchell Rose						
6-26-99	**Paulie Ayala W 12 Johnny Tapia**	**PPV**	**WBA b**	**A**	**B+**	**A+**
Ayala superb in one of the best fights of the year; pray for a rematch						
7-3-99	Willie Jorrin W 12 Aristead Clayton	ESPN2	jf	C+	B+	C
Jorrin wins every round and only gets split nod; dissenting judge should be caned						
7-3-99	Napoleon Tagoe W 10 Ramon Garbey	FOXSN	c	C	B+	B-
This could have gone either way, but passive Garbey has no one to blame but himself						
7-10-99	Jose Rivera KO 5 Kip Diggs	ESPN2	jm	C+	C-	B-
Controversial stoppage brings on premature end; these two will meet again soon						
7-10-99	Zab Judah KO 1 David Sample	ESPN2	jw	B+	C+	B
Overwhelming win for Judah, who should get title shot before end of year						
7-10-99	Goyo Vargas W 12 Ricky Quiles	Tel	l	C	C-	B-
Amazing how quickly Vargas recovered from "illness" once Mayweather fight was canceled						
7-10-99	Hector Camacho Jr. KO 9 Miguel Angel Ruiz	Tel	jw	C+	C	B-
Junior dominates throughout and stops tough guy Ruiz on cuts						

Category Explanation: "Significance"—The importance of the bout to the division and the fighters' futures; "Matchup"—The quality of the fighters and the prefight determination of how their styles will mesh; "Result"—How the bout turned out, from the viewer's perspective.

(World title fights in **bold** type)

Division key: h—heavyweight; c—cruiserweight; lh—light heavyweight; sm—super middleweight; m—middleweight; jm—junior middleweight; w—welterweight; jw—junior welterweight; l—lightweight; jl—junior lightweight; f—featherweight; jf—junior featherweight; b—bantamweight; jb—junior bantamweight; fl—flyweight; jfl—junior flyweight; s—strawweight

Network key: PPV—Pay-Per-View; Show—Showtime; FOXSN–Fox SportsNet; Uni–Univision; Tel—Telemundo

MANUEL RAMOS, 1943-1999

Ramos: Mexican heavyweight dies at 56

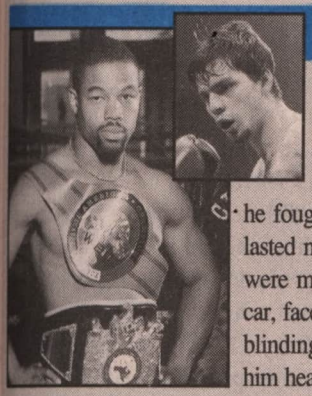
Not only was Manuel Ramos the best Mexican heavyweight of all-time, he came within a punch of winning the world title when he rocked defending champion Joe Frazier with a right hand in the first round of their title bout on June 24, 1968, at Madison Square Garden. But "Smokin' Joe" roared back to stop the 6'3" Ramos in the second, and from that point on, the Mexican's career went steadily downhill.

"The funny thing about the Frazier fight was that Ramos' best punch was the left hook," said Gil Clancy, who trained Ramos for the bout. "But he missed the hook and got him with the right. If he'd have landed the hook instead, he might have been champ."

Ramos, 56, died of a heart attack on June 6 in Iztacalco, a suburb of Mexico City.

Ramos turned pro in '63 and beat contenders Ernie Terrell, Eddie Machen, and James J. Woody en route to Frazier, but lost 18 of his last 23 bouts before hanging up his gloves with a 25-25-3 (20) record in '74.

A HERCULEAN RESCUE



Grant may not have made it without Kyvelos (inset)

Middleweight contender Otis Grant is too well-schooled a defensive fighter to ever get seriously hurt in the ring. Even when he fought Roy Jones last November, he lasted nearly 10 rounds, and his injuries were minor. But behind the wheel of a car, faced with the horrifying image of a blinding pair of headlights approaching him head-on, he is as defenseless as anyone else. And as a result, his boxing career is in jeopardy.

But thanks in part to the heroic actions of friend and undefeated junior middleweight prospect Hercules Kyvelos, Grant's life is not. On the night of June 10, Grant, accompanied by his four-year-old daughter, Alexandria, and Kyvelos, was driving his Saturn down Montreal's Highway 15, when a vehicle driven by 43-year-old Jasmine Giroux approached them—headed north in the southbound lane. The four-car wreck that followed killed Giroux, and might have done the same to Grant had Kyvelos not acted quickly. Kyvelos and Grant's daughter were both relatively unscathed, so Kyvelos carried the little girl to the side of the road and went back for her unconscious father. Grant, who had a broken shoulder, four fractured ribs, and bruised lungs, was pried from the car by Kyvelos and then carried to the grass beside the highway. Kyvelos called 911 on his cell phone and kept Grant conscious until help arrived.

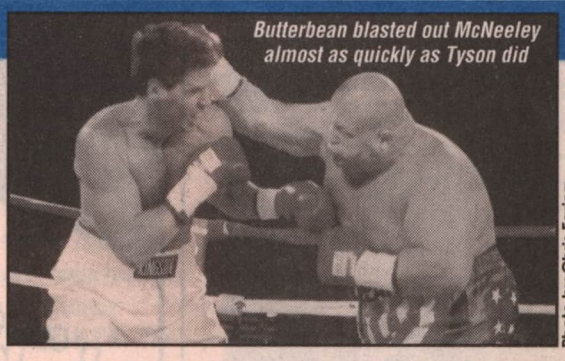
"I don't think I'm a hero," Kyvelos said afterward. "I don't like it when people say I'm a hero. I just did what anyone would have done in the same circumstances."

Grant, who works full-time as a high school counselor in addition to his boxing career, was on a respirator, unable to breathe on his own for the first week after the accident. But he was finally released on June 30, having made a great deal of progress.

"He's basically one big, giant walking wound," said Russ Anber, the trainer/manager of both Grant and Kyvelos. "But he's out of danger. Boxing isn't really a concern right now. We just want him to be ready to return to teaching in September, and it looks like he will."

—Eric Raskin

EMOTIONAL HURRICANE



Butterbean blasted out McNeeley almost as quickly as Tyson did

Photo by Chris Farina

The circus that is Butterbean took on elements of tragedy when Peter McNeeley, The Beanster's opponent on the Paulie Ayala-Johnny Tapia undercard, choked back tears and delivered an emotion-laden confession during the final prefight press conference.

"A year after I fought Mike Tyson, I'm sitting in a crackhouse, digging on the floor for rocks that weren't there, peeking out the window at demons and ghosts that weren't there," said McNeeley, a recovering addict. "People were looking for me. I was lost. I dropped out of life. I called a friend: 'Come and get me; I need help.' My mom and dad stayed behind me."

At that point, someone in the crowd yelled: "We love you, Peter." To which McNeeley replied, "And now, today, I love myself."

Let's hope McNeeley really has found inner peace, because what happened a few days later in the ring against the 311-pound "King Of The Four-Rounders" turned into another nightmare for the Medford, Massachusetts, clubfighter. Butterbean, who bet $10,000 on himself, brushed aside McNeeley's feeble jabs and proceeded to tee off with impunity. Referee Jay Nady stopped the mismatch with one second remaining in the first round, after McNeeley, 211, had been repeatedly staggered by Bean's roundhouse bombs.

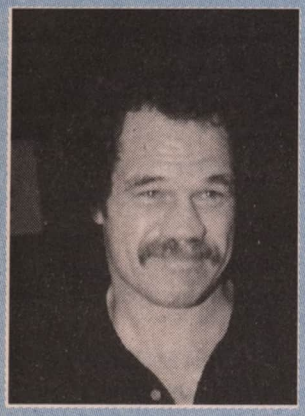
"It was a weak stoppage," wailed McNeeley afterward. "I never went down. I want a rematch."

Boxing has been a vehicle of redemption for many troubled individuals, but for McNeeley, continuing to fight might be just as dangerous as smoking crack and swilling booze. At age 30, it's time for McNeeley to find a meaningful life for himself outside of the ring.

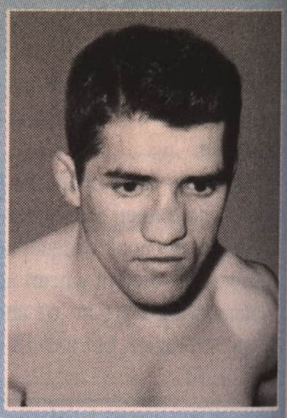
—Nigel Collins

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

Mike Tyson signed a deal with America Presents in late-June for at least four more fights with the Denver-based promotional outfit ... Former heavyweight contender **Randall "Tex" Cobb** emerged victorious in his libel suit against *Sports Illustrated*, as a Nashville, Tennessee, jury awarded him $8.5-million in compensatory damages and $2.2-million in punitive damages for a 1993 article alleging that Cobb had been involved in a fixed fight. An appeal from *SI* was expected ... The legal world was a little less kind to former heavyweight champ **Joe Frazier**, who was shot down by Common Pleas Court Judge **Edward G. Beister Jr.** in his bid to reclaim land in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, from 476 homeowners who he claimed were illegally occupying property he owned. Frazier said he was never paid for the land that he bought in 1973, but Beister ruled that the homeowners had valid deeds ... Former WBA minimumweight champ **Rosendo Alvarez** swore after an early-May incident in which he was robbed by prostitutes after passing out drunk in a taxi that he was changing his ways. And he nearly made it through the month. On May 31, Alvarez left the scene of an accident after his car collided with a taxi, and he was arrested a few hours later when he was found asleep in his Jeep. "El Bufalo" was charged with drunk driving, driving without a license, and leaving the scene of an accident ... Promoter **Art Pelullo** won a lawsuit in late-June involving a dispute over the contract of undefeated Brazilian junior lightweight **Acelino Freitas**. A Las Vegas court gave Pelullo and his company, Banner Promotions, exclusive promotional rights to Freitas ... Following a win over **Levi Billups** in mid-June, veteran Australian heavyweight **Joe Bugner** not only announced his retirement (again), he also proclaimed his intention to pursue a political career. Bugner said he might run as a candidate for the National Party in the next Queensland state elections ... There are a couple of boxing deaths to report this month: 1950s welterweight contender **Jed Black**, the NCAA welterweight champion in 1951 and one of the most successful college graduates ever in the pro game, died at the age of 70 in his hometown of Janesville, Wisconsin, in early-June. Black's brief 29-3-1 (15) pro career included a win over former lightweight champion **Ike Williams**. Also passing recently was former European junior middleweight champion **Gilbert Cohen**, who died in a Paris hospital in mid-June from a lung infection. Cohen, 51, had a professional record of 18-3 (10).



Cobb: Awarded $10.7-million



Black: College standout dies at 70

THE PUNCHLINES

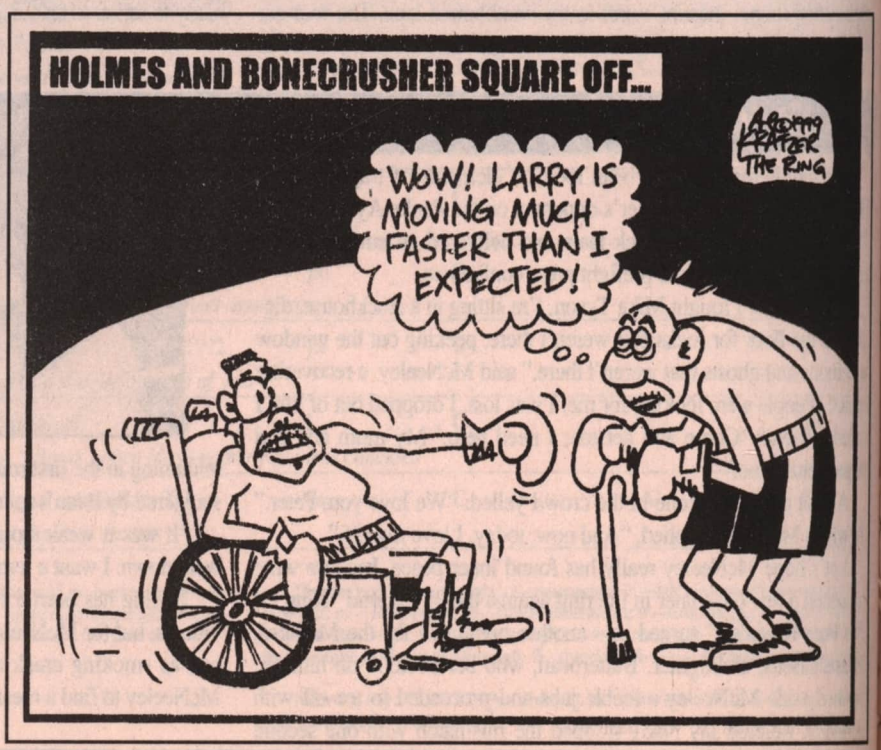
"I'm just glad I don't have to see their ugly faces again, all of them, until the week of the fight."

—Promoter Bob Arum, on Don King and the Felix Trinidad camp, following the promotional tour for Trinidad vs. Oscar De La Hoya

"He's bigger than the Rolling Stones. Bigger than U2. Bigger than Pavarotti."

—America Presents promoter Mat Tinley, on Mike Tyson

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



The RING®
"THE BIBLE OF BOXING"

RATINGS ANALYSIS

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA** Welterweight
2. **ROY JONES** Light Heavyweight
3. **FELIX TRINIDAD** Welterweight
4. **SHANE MOSLEY** Junior Welterweight
5. **MARK JOHNSON** Junior Bantamweight
6. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER** Junior Lightweight
7. **RICARDO LOPEZ** Strawweight
8. **NASEEM HAMED** Featherweight
9. **ERIK MORALES** Junior Featherweight
10. **BERNARD HOPKINS** Middleweight

(For period ended July 13, 1999)

HEAVYWEIGHTS: Even though Shannon Briggs will have fought Frans Botha by the time you read this (unless he pulls out again), Briggs' inactivity heretofore costs him his number-10 ranking. He's replaced by Kirk Johnson. Vitaly Klitschko was also given serious consideration, but as spectacular as his second-round blastout of Herbie Hide was, Hide's credentials were questionable at best.

CRUISERWEIGHTS: No changes.

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS: No changes.

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Vinny Pazienza was lucky to get the decision against unheralded Esteban Cervantes. Therefore, Paz, ninth last issue, trades places with Mads Larsen, and is now 10th.

MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Even though Otis Grant has not fought at middleweight since May 1998, we're giving the Canadian more time before dropping him after his serious auto accident.

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS: No changes.

WELTERWEIGHTS: No changes.

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS: Zab Judah's sensational first-round kayo of David Sample elevates him from seventh to sixth. Ex-champ Vince Phillips, who hasn't fought since losing the IBF belt to Terronn Millett in February, falls from sixth to seventh.

LIGHTWEIGHTS: No changes.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS: Mongolian upstart Lakva Sim debuts at number three after knocking out Takanori Hatakeyama for the WBA title. Hatakeyama, previously number two, announced his retirement following the loss and exits the ratings. IBF champ Roberto Garcia moves from third to second. Joel Casamayor replaces Saul Duran in the 10th spot thanks to his one-sided decision over Antonio Hernandez, who was coming off a stoppage of Justin Juuko.

FEATHERWEIGHTS: No changes.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS: No changes.

BANTAMWEIGHTS: Paulie Ayala zooms from eighth to second following to his sizzling win over Johnny Tapia, who slipped only from second to third because of the close nature of the contest.

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS: Diego Morales (Erik's brother) stopped Victor Godoy and replaces him at number 10.

FLYWEIGHTS: No changes.

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS: IBF titlist Will Grigsby changes places with Baby Jake Matlala, who hasn't had a significant fight in some time. Grigsby is now number four, Matlala number five.

STRAWWEIGHTS: No changes.

POUND-FOR-POUND: Sometimes it's possible to compound an error. Such was the case with Lennox Lewis' pound-for-pound rating. The WBC champ was installed at the 10th spot after his bout with Evander Holyfield, who was number three prior to their controversial draw. In retrospect, it's obvious that Holyfield's rating was way too high, and it was also a mistake to reward the previously unranked Lewis with the 10th position. Therefore, Lewis is gone in what amounts to a rectification of a previous lapse in judgment. Also this issue, Floyd Mayweather passes inactive Ricardo Lopez, and is now sixth, while Lopez slips to seventh. Johnny Tapia, formerly ninth, departs after losing to Paulie Ayala. New entries Erik Morales and Bernard Hopkins are ninth and 10th, respectively. ■

THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended July 13, 1999

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

Records By Fight Fax Inc.

Photo by Chris Farina

Paulie Ayala's upset win over Johnny Tapia earned him the number-two spot at bantamweight

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **LENNOX LEWIS** England *34-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD** Fairburn, GA *36-3-1 (WBA/IBF Champ)*
3. **IKE IBEABUCHI** Dallas, TX *20-0*
4. **MICHAEL GRANT** Norristown, PA *30-0*
5. **MIKE TYSON** Catskill, NY *46-3*
6. **DAVID TUA** Totowa, NJ *33-1*
7. **ANDREW GOLOTA** Chicago, IL *34-3*
8. **HASIM RAHMAN** Baltimore, MD *31-1*
9. **CHRIS BYRD** Flint, MI *28-1*
10. **KIRK JOHNSON** Canada *27-0-1*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 190 pounds

1. **FABRICE TIOZZO** France *40-1 (WBA Champ)*
2. **JUAN CARLOS GOMEZ** Germany *27-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **VASSILIY JIROV** Kazakhstan *21-0 (IBF Champ)*
4. **JOHNNY NELSON** England *33-12-1*
5. **MARCELO DOMINGUEZ** Argentina *26-3-1*
6. **ARTHUR WILLIAMS** Las Vegas, NV *30-5-1*
7. **IMAMU MAYFIELD** New Brunswick, NJ *19-2*
8. **SAUL MONTANA** Mexico *33-6*
9. **KENNY KEENE** Emmett, ID *45-3*
10. **CARL THOMPSON** England *24-5*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **ROY JONES** Pensacola, FL *40-1 (WBC/WBA/IBF Champ)*
2. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI** Germany *40-0*
3. **GRACIANO ROCCHIGIANI** Germany *40-4-1*
4. **LOU DEL VALLE** Bronx, NY *28-2*
5. **REGGIE JOHNSON** Houston, TX *39-6-1*
6. **MICHAEL NUNN** Davenport, IA *54-4*
7. **ERIC HARDING** Philadephia, PA *16-0-1*
8. **MONTELL GRIFFIN** Chicago, IL *38-2*
9. **ANTONIO TARVER** Orlando, FL *13-0*
10. **DAVID TELESCO** Port Chester, NY *21-2*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **JOE CALZAGHE** Wales *27-0*
2. **RICHIE WOODHALL** England *25-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **SVEN OTTKE** Germany *15-0 (IBF Champ)*
4. **BYRON MITCHELL** Ozark, AL *20-0 (WBA Champ)*
5. **CHARLES BREWER** Philadelphia, PA *33-6*
6. **THOMAS TATE** Houston, TX *36-5*
7. **FRANKIE LILES** N. Hollywood, CA *32-2*
8. **ROBIN REID** England *26-2-1*
9. **MADS LARSEN** Denmark *29-1*
10. **VINNY PAZIENZA** Cranston, RI *46-7*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **BERNARD HOPKINS** Philadelphia, PA *35-2-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **WILLIAM JOPPY** Washington, D.C. *26-1-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **KEITH HOLMES** Washington, D.C. *33-2 (WBC Champ)*
4. **HASSINE CHERIFI** France *27-3-1*
5. **ANTWUN ECHOLS** Davenport, IA *22-2-1*
6. **OTIS GRANT** Canada *31-2-1*
7. **RYAN RHODES** England *19-1*
8. **JULIO CESAR GREEN** Brooklyn, NY *25-3*
9. **ROBERT McCRACKEN** England *33-0*
10. **ROBERT ALLEN** Atlanta, GA *23-3*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. **FERNANDO VARGAS**
   Oxnard, CA 16-0 (IBF Champ)
2. **DAVID REID**
   Philadelphia, PA 12-0 (WBA Champ)
3. **LAURENT BOUDOUANI**
   France 38-3-1
4. **FRANCISCO CASTILLEJO**
   Spain 45-4 (WBC Champ)
5. **HARRY SIMON**
   Namibia 18-0
6. **KEITH MULLINGS**
   Brooklyn, NY 16-5-1
7. **YORY BOY CAMPAS**
   Mexico 73-3
8. **WINKY WRIGHT**
   St. Petersburg, FL 39-2
9. **BRONCO McKART**
   Monroe, MI 37-2
10. **TONY MARSHALL**
    Albany, NY 32-7-6

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Whittier, CA 31-0 (WBC Champ)
2. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Puerto Rico 35-0 (IBF Champ)
3. **IKE QUARTEY**
   Ghana 34-1-1
4. **JAMES PAGE**
   Pittsburg, CA 24-3 (WBA Champ)
5. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Norfolk, VA 41-3-1
6. **JOSE LUIS LOPEZ**
   Mexico 42-4-2
7. **OBA CARR**
   Detroit, MI 48-3-1
8. **VERNON FORREST**
   Atlanta, GA 29-0
9. **SHANNAN TAYLOR**
   Australia 24-0-1
10. **WILFREDO RIVERA**
    Puerto Rico 29-3-1

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. **SHARMBA MITCHELL**
   Washington, D.C. 45-2 (WBA Champ)
2. **SHANE MOSLEY**
   Pomona, CA 32-0
3. **TERRONN MILLETT**
   St. Louis, MO 21-1-1 (IBF Champ)
4. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Australia 22-1-1
5. **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ**
   Mexico 43-1-1
6. **ZAB JUDAH**
   Brooklyn, NY 21-0
7. **VINCE PHILLIPS**
   Las Vegas, NV 39-4
8. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
   Mexico 101-3-2
9. **ANTONIO DIAZ**
   Coachella, CA 27-2
10. **RANDALL BAILEY**
    Miami, FL 19-0

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. **STEVE JOHNSTON**
   Denver, CO 27-1 (WBC Champ)
2. **ANGEL MANFREDY**
   Gary, IN 28-3-1
3. **JULIEN LORCY**
   France 41-1-2 (WBA Champ)
4. **CESAR BAZAN**
   Mexico 34-3-1
5. **ISRAEL CARDONA**
   Hartford, CT 31-2
6. **IVAN ROBINSON**
   Philadelphia, PA 27-3
7. **ARTURO GATTI**
   Jersey City, NJ 29-4
8. **COLIN DUNNE**
   England 29-1
9. **JEAN-BAPTISTE MENDY**
   France 53-7-2
10. **ARTUR GRIGORIJAN**
    Uzbekistan 26-0

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER**
   Grand Rapids, MI 21-0 (WBC Champ)
2. **ROBERTO GARCIA**
   Oxnard, CA 32-0 (IBF Champ)
3. **LAKVA SIM**
   Mongolia 11-1-1 (WBA Champ)
4. **YONG SOO CHOI**
   South Korea 25-3-1
5. **JESUS CHAVEZ**
   Austin, TX 26-1
6. **ANATOLY ALEXANDROV**
   Kazakhstan 35-3
7. **GOYO VARGAS**
   Mexico 39-6-1
8. **DIEGO CORRALES**
   Sacramento, CA 28-0
9. **JOHN BROWN**
   Atlantic City, NJ 19-6
10. **JOEL CASAMAYOR**
    Miami, FL 18-0

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. **NASEEM HAMED**
   England 32-0
2. **FRED NORWOOD**
   St. Louis, MO 34-0-1 (WBA Champ)
3. **CESAR SOTO**
   Mexico 53-7-2 (WBC Champ)
4. **VUYANI BUNGU**
   South Africa 37-2
5. **LUISITO ESPINOSA**
   Philippines 44-8
6. **DERRICK GAINER**
   Pensacola, FL 28-4
7. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
   Mexico 29-1
8. **MANUEL MEDINA**
   Mexico 56-10 (IBF Champ)
9. **ANTONIO CERMENO**
   Venezuela 33-3
10. **ANGEL VAZQUEZ**
    Hartford, CT 17-0

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. **ERIK MORALES**
   Mexico 33-0 (WBC Champ)
2. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
   Mexico 48-2
3. **NESTOR GARZA**
   Mexico 36-1 (WBA Champ)
4. **LEHLO LEDWABA**
   South Africa 28-1-1 (IBF Champ)
5. **WAYNE McCULLOUGH**
   Las Vegas, NV 22-2
6. **KENNEDY McKINNEY**
   Memphis, TN 33-4-1
7. **ENRIQUE SANCHEZ**
   Mexico 25-1-1
8. **MBULELO BOTILE**
   South Africa 24-1
9. **CARLOS NAVARRO**
   Los Angeles, CA 19-0
10. **JUAN CARLOS RAMIREZ**
    Mexico 17-2

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. **TIM AUSTIN**
   Cincinnati, OH 19-0-1 (IBF Champ)
2. **PAULIE AYALA**
   Ft. Worth, TX 28-1 (WBA Champ)
3. **JOHNNY TAPIA**
   Albuquerque, NM 46-1-2
4. **VEERAPOL SAHAPROM**
   Thailand 22-1 (WBC Champ)
5. **NANA KONADU**
   Ghana 40-4-1
6. **JORGE ELIECER JULIO**
   Colombia 41-1
7. **JULIO GAMBOA**
   Nicaragua 24-4
8. **JOICHIRO TATSUYOSHI**
   Japan 17-5-1
9. **ADAN VARGAS**
   Mexico 31-1-1
10. **DARIO AZUAGA**
    Paraguay 44-0-1

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Washington, D.C. 37-1 (IBF Champ)
2. **IN JOO CHO**
   South Korea 15-0 (WBC Champ)
3. **JESUS ROJAS**
   Venezuela 32-7-3 (WBA Champ)
4. **GERRY PENALOSA**
   Philippines 40-2-2
5. **YOKTHAI SITHOAR**
   Thailand 18-1-1
6. **LUIS BOLANO**
   Colombia 31-0
7. **RATANACHAI VORAPIN**
   Thailand 35-4
8. **JOEL LUNA-ZARATE**
   Mexico 32-3-2
9. **ERIC MOREL**
   Madison, WI 21-0
10. **DIEGO MORALES**
    Mexico 18-0

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. **MANNY PACQUIAO**
   Philippines 25-1 (WBC Champ)
2. **LEO GAMEZ**
   Venezuela 32-6-1 (WBA Champ)
3. **MAURICIO PASTRANA**
   Colombia 21-0
4. **CHATCHAI DUTCHBOY GYM**
   Thailand 34-2
5. **IRENE PACHECO**
   Colombia 22-0 (IBF Champ)
6. **HUGO SOTO**
   Argentina 50-6-2
7. **JOSE BONILLA**
   Venezuela 25-5
8. **SAEN SOR PLOENCHIT**
   Thailand 33-1
9. **ALEJANDRO MONTIEL**
   Mexico 39-3
10. **DAVID GUERAULT**
    France 15-0

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. **SAMAN SORJATURONG**
   Thailand 40-2-1 (WBC Champ)
2. **ROSENDO ALVAREZ**
   Nicaragua 25-1-1
3. **PICHITNOI C. SIRIWAT**
   Thailand 21-1 (WBA Champ)
4. **WILL GRIGSBY**
   St. Paul, MN 14-1-1 (IBF Champ)
5. **BABY JAKE MATLALA**
   South Africa 50-10-2
6. **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
   Mexico 55-6-4
7. **JOMA GAMBOA**
   Philippines 25-4-1
8. **JORGE ARCE**
   Mexico 20-2-1
9. **JOSE SANJUANELO**
   Colombia 12-0
10. **YEOSAM CHOI**
    South Korea 19-1

STRAWWEIGHT
Weight Limit: 105 pounds

1. **RICARDO LOPEZ**
   Mexico 47-0-1 (WBC/WBA Champ)
2. **ZOLANI PETELO**
   South Africa 14-2-2 (IBF Champ)
3. **WANDEE CHOR CHAREON**
   Thailand 23-3
4. **CHANA PORPAOIN**
   Thailand 38-1
5. **SONGKRAM PORPAOIN**
   Thailand 20-2-1
6. **ROCKY LIN**
   Philippines 26-2
7. **JOSE AGUIRRE**
   Mexico 20-1-1
8. **KERMIN GUARDIA**
   Columbia 31-2
9. **ANDY TABANAS**
   Philippines 35-3-1
10. **OSWALDO GUERRERO**
    Mexico 26-4

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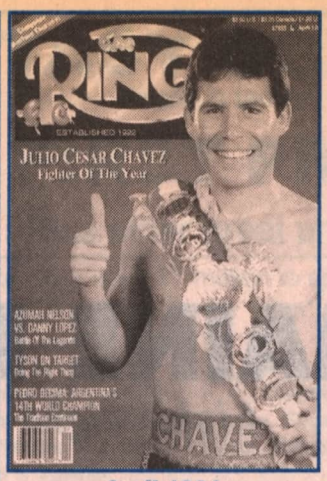

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July 1997: Leonard: There Wasn't Even A Ray Of Hope. Plus: Felix Trinidad, David Reid, Willie deWit & Shawn O'Sullivan, THE RING's 75th anniversary, Moore-Durelle I.

Sept. 1997 (92-Page Special): Who's The Best? The Experts Make Their Pound-For-Pound Choice. Plus: Terry Norris, Junior Jones, George Foreman, greatest punchers, Tapia-Romero preview, Mark Tessman, Doc Anderson.

Oct. 1997: Bang! Naseem Hamed Takes Aim At America. Plus: Riddick Bowe, Phillips-Tszyu, Saman Sorjaturong, Bobby Dykes.

Nov. 1997: Mike Tyson: Is He Finished? Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Ike Ibeabuchi, Hall of Fame weekend, mismatches.

Holiday 1997: Roy Jones: When He's Motivated, He's Unstoppable—Got That, Evander? Plus: Julio Cesar Green, Sugar Shane Mosley, boxers' day jobs, Tyson's mentor, Kid Lavigne.

Jan. 1998: Give This Man His Due! If You Can't Respect Oscar ... You Can't Respect Anyone! Plus: Sanchez-Mayweather, Morales-Zaragoza, Lucia Rijker, Marvin Johnson, characters.

Feb. 1998: Welter-Skelter! The Hottest Division In Boxing. Plus: Lewis-Golota, Olympic update, Art Shires, boxing I.Q.

March 1998 (92-Page Special): Into The Millennium With The Real Deal: THE RING's Timeline For Evander Holyfield. Plus: Hernandez-Hernandez, Briggs-Foreman, 10 champs recall "The Day I Won The Title," Johnny Thompson.

April 1998: Evander Holyfield: THE RING's Fighter Of The Year (Again!). Plus: Yory Boy Campas, Mullings-Norris, Pinkey Mitchell, Holyfield Q & A, Hamed-Kelley, Oscar De La Hoya.

May 1998: Wrestling With His Reinstatement: Is Tyson Biting The Hand That Feeds Him? Plus: Lewis-Briggs preview, Michael Grant, Manfredy-Gatti, Ski Goldstein, Dan Donnelly.

June 1998 (92-Page Special): The State Of The Game. Plus: Tyson-King, David Reid, Bernard Hopkins, Ken Norton.

July 1998: Holyfield ... Tapia ... Hamed ... Jones ... Trinidad ... De La Hoya: Who Will Be The First To Fall? Plus: Magic Johnson, Chavez-Gonzalez & Lopez-Alvarez, underappreciated boxers.

Aug. 1998: Lennox Lewis: No Holyfield, No Glory. Plus: Felix Trinidad, Pat & Mike McMurtry, Chris Byrd, unbreakable records, contenders & pretenders.

Sept. 1998 (92-Page Special): This Man's Not Unbeatable! Five Top Trainers Reveal How To Solve The Hamed Puzzle. Plus: John Tate, Freddie Norwood, Andrew Golota, Roy Jones, 12 greatest finishes.

Oct. 1998: Really Hard Punch ... Really Soft Lips: Oscar Makes Legs Quiver In And Out Of The Ring. Plus: Hector Camacho Jr., Mayweather-Hernandez preview, *Tuesday Night Fights*.

Nov. 1998: Oscar De La Hoya vs. The All-Time Greats. Plus: David Reid, Fernando Vargas, Cory Spinks, LeRoy Neiman, Don King, Hall of Fame.

Dec. 1998: Can Tyson Muscle His Way Back To The Top? 25 Insiders Have Their Say. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Teofilo Stevenson, Team Freedom, Tapia-Romero II preview, Roy Jones.

Holiday 1998 (92-Page Special): A War Worthy Of An Encore: Why Gatti & Robinson Have To Do It Again! Plus: Kostya Tszyu, Israel Cardona, Mills Lane, 50 greatest heavyweights.

Jan. 1999: Sugar Shane Mosley: The Sweet Tradition Continues. Plus: Evander Holyfield, Julio Cesar Chavez, Erik Morales, Ray "Windmill" White.

Feb. 1999: 1999! It's Gonna Be A Great Year For Boxing. Plus: Mike Tyson, Foreman-Holmes, David Reid, Eric Morel, Richie Mitchell, quitters.

March 1999: De La Hoya vs. Quartey: Does Bazooka Have The Weapons To Shoot Down Oscar? Plus: Sugar Shane Mosley, Lopez-Alvarez II, Roy Jones, Coley Wallace.

April 1999 (92-Page Special): Fighter Of The Year: Floyd Mayweather Jr.: "He's So Good, It's Scary!" Plus: Fernando Vargas, James Page, Luisito Espinosa, Robinson-Gatti II, Archie Moore, Carlos Oritz, 1998 diary.

☐Apr/80	☐Nov/85	☐Aug/88	☐Apr/91	☐Oct/94	☐May/97
	☐Dec/85	☐Sep/88	☐Jun/91	☐Nov/94	☐Jun/97
☐Jan/83	**All 11 $40**	☐Oct/88	☐Jul/91	☐Dec/94	☐Jul/97
☐Feb/83		☐Nov/88	☐Aug/91	**All 6 $25**	☐Sep/97
☐Apr/83	☐Jan/86	**All 8 $31**	☐Oct/91		☐Oct/97
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NEW FACES

JERMAINE FIELDS

Lightweight

By Joe Santoliquito

PRO RECORD

1997		
Jan. 17	Rogelio Castaneda, Reseda, CA	KO 1
Feb. 25	Cesar Holguin, Long Beach, CA	KO 2
March 28	Khalil Khalil, Boston	KO 1
May 24	Javier Duran, Denver	KO 2
June 7	David Turner, Chicago	KO 4
July 20	Johannes Musa, Palm Springs, CA	KO 2
Dec. 20	Luis Montes, Reseda	W 4
1998		
Jan. 31	Tony Duran, Atlantic City	KO 1
March 6	Joe Figueroa, Washington, D.C.	W 6
May 19	Kent Nealey, Corpus Christi, TX	W 4
Nov. 3	Antonio Smith, Memphis	KO 1
Nov. 12	Derik Able, Glen Burnie, MD	KO 3
1999		
Jan. 28	Fidelio Morel, Glen Burnie	KO 1
Feb. 28	Roy Simpson, Alexandria, VA	KO 2
April 25	Roy Simpson, Alexandria	KO 2
May 13	Eugene Johnson, Glen Burnie	KO 4
June 18	Khalil Shakeel, Fayetteville, NC	KO 8

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KOs
17	17	0	0	14

Jermaine Fields could tell something was wrong by the tone of his mother's voice. All she would say over the phone was get home—fast. When Fields saw a host of cars parked outside his parents' home, he feared the worst. He warily stepped into the house, where family members had gathered inside the living room, a place his mother rarely permitted anyone to go.

His brothers were in tears. His mother, Carnell, gingerly approached him to tell him the most painful thing he has ever heard in his life: His older brother, William, had been shot and killed earlier that night. Like four fingers on a hand, the Fields brothers were always together, always. They were best friends who had done everything as one, from roughhousing over the living room furniture, to traveling across the country for boxing tournaments.

Suddenly, one of the four fingers was severed.

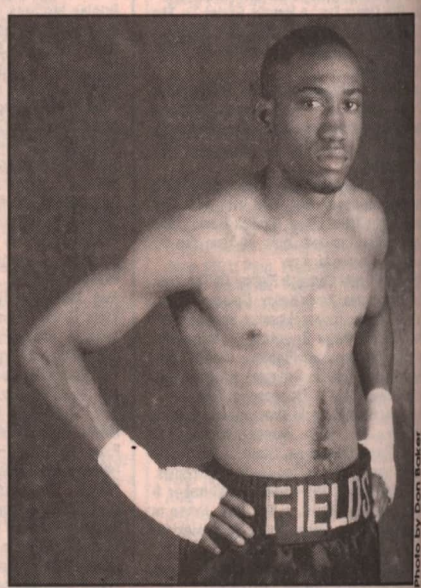

Photo by Don Baker

"I just ran outside and cried and cried and cried," Fields recalled. "It changed my life a little. I always wonder when I'm in the ring or before or after a fight what it would be like to have all four of us still fighting. We always fed off each other. We were like a bond, like one."

The 26-year-old fighter from Washington, D.C., is working toward becoming the number-one lightweight in the world. Fields has displayed a quick, powerful style in racking up a 17-0 (14) record. His ultimate goal is to meet WBC super featherweight champion Floyd Mayweather, one of the best pound-for-pound fighters in the world today. For the time being, Fields is willing to hone his skills and chalk up victories.

In his most recent bout, Fields scored an eighth-round knockout of Khalil Shakeel in a scheduled 10-round bout on the undercard of the Bonecrusher Smith-Larry Holmes

(Continued on page 58)

Fields nails Eugene Johnson with a bodyshot

Photo by Brian Cannon

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1. Scoring system - every time one of your fighters:

Wins = +3 points	Wins by KO or TKO = +1	Wins or defends title* = +1	Fights top 10 contender* or champ* = +1
Loses = -3 points	Loses by KO or TKO = -1	Loses title* = -1	(* WBA, WBC, and IBF)

Example: Shane Mosley KOs Ivan Robinson to defend his title. Sugar Shane picks up 3 points for the win, 1 for the KO, 1 for defending his title, and 1 for fighting a top 10 contender, for a total of 6 points. Robinson loses 3 points for the loss and 1 for the KO, but gains 1 point for fighting a champ resulting in a loss of 3 points

2. Contest concludes 6 months from the entry deadline
3. The gym that accumulates the most points in a given month will be awarded the monthly prize. The Cash First Prize will be awarded to the gym that accumulates the most points over the full 6 month period. Runners up will receive boxing related prizes

Circle your 10 selections, 1 from each of the 10 divisions - you can spend up to $1 million

HEAVYWEIGHTS

Akinwande, H	$100,000
Bean, V	$50,000
Botha, F	$50,000
Briggs, S	$70,000
Byrd, C	$70,000
Donald, L.	$55,000
Golota, A	$100,000
Grant M	$100,000
Hide, H	$60,000
Holyfield, E	$115,000
Ibeabuchi, I	$105,000
Johnson, K	$90,000
Klitschko, V	$65,000
Klitschko, W	$60,000
Lewis, L	$175,000
Mahone, E	$ 55,000
Mercer, R	$100,000
Moorer, M	$95,000
Rahman, H	$80,000
Ruddock, D	$50,000
Ruiz, J	$80,000
Savarese, L	$85,000
Schulz, A	$60,000
Sullivan, O	$55,000
Tua, D	$80,000

LIGHT HEAVIES

Carter, L	$50,000
Del Valle, L	$80,000
Frazier, R	$50,000
Griffin, M	$90,000
Hall, R	$25,000
Harding, E	$80,000
Harmon, D	$40,000
Hill, V	$100,000
Johnson, R	$125,000
Jones, Jr. R	$200,000
Michalczewski, D,	$150,000
Rocchigiani, G	$75,000
Tarver, A	$100,000
Taylor, W	$65,000
Telesco, D	$100,000
Thadzi, D	$60,000
Wharton, H	$50,000

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Allen, R	$130,000
Barbosa, B	$40,000
Barr, F	$50,000
Branco, S	$40,000
Cardamone, A	$50,000
Cherifi, H	$100,000
Echols, A	$90,000
Grant O	$90,000
Green, JC	$90,000
Holmes, K	$95,000
Hopkins, B	$175,000
Joppy, W	$140,000
McCracken, R	$105,000
Obah, D	$85,000
Oulette, S	$85,000
Rhodes, R	$60,000
Rosenblatt, D	$80,000
Ruvalcaba, R	$25,000
Schenk, B	$35,000
Vazquez, JC	$90,000
Venancio, P	$70,000

JR. MIDDLES

Artango, E	$60,000
Boudouani, L	$100,000
Camacho, H	$85,000
Campas, Y	$100,000
Castillejo, J	$115,000
Ciarlante, D	$30,000
Coker, J	$50,000
Jones, G	$60,000
Kelly, K	$50,000
Linton, E	$50,000
Marquez, R	$95,000
Marshall, T	$75,000
McKart, B	$60,000
Mullings, K	$95,000
Ortega, P	$25,000
Reid, D	$175,000
Simon, H	$100,000
Thiam, M	$40,000
Vargas, F	$175,000
Wright, W	$90,000

WELTERWEIGHTS

Carr, O	$100,000
Chavez, JC	$90,000
Coley, D	$90,000
De La Hoya, O	$200,000
Forrest, V	$100,000
Gamache, J	$25,000
Garr, S	$65,000
Haugen, G	$40,000
Katejev, A	$40,000
Lewis, A	$55,000
Lopez, T	$55,000
Lopez, JL	$90,000
Mitchem, B	$40,000
Page, J	$135,000
Pettaway, V	$90,000
Pestraiev, A	$85,000
Quartey, I	$125,000
Randall, F	$80,000
Rivera, W	$90,000
Taylor, S	$90,000
Trinidad, F	$200,000
Whitaker, P	$100,000

JR. WELTERS

Camacho, Jr.	$60,000
Chaves, I	$50,000
Diaz, A	$40,000
Gonzalez, B	$75,000
Gonzalez, MA	$100,000
Green, R	$85,000
Hurtado, D	$90,000
Judah, Z	$115,000
McClendon, V	$65,000
Millett, T	$110,000
Mitchell, S	$125,000
Pendleton, F	$55,000
Phillips, V	$100,000
Quiroz, H	$90,000
Rahilou, K	$90,000
Ruelas, R	$80,000
Spinks, C	$65,000
Tszyu, K	$115,000
Wheeler, J	$60,000

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Bazan, C	$90,000
Brown, J	$65,000
Cardona, I	$105,000
Cassamayor, J	$60,000
Cassamonica, S	$25,000
Gatti, A	$95,000
Gregorian, V	$80,000
Holliday, P	$90,000
Johnson, G	$75,000
Johnson, L	$80,000
Johnston, S	$110,000
Leija, J	$80,000
Manfredy, A	$105,000
Mendy, JB,	$125,000
Mosley, S	$200,000
N'Dou L	$35,000
Nazarov, O	$105,000
Rios, A	$25,000
Robinson, I	$100,000
Schwer, B	$85,000
Sicurella, A	$70,000
Tackie, B	$75,000

JR. LIGHTS

Alexandrov, A	$75,000
Castillo, A	$70,000
Chavez, J	$75,000
Choi, YS	$100,000
Duran, S	$40,000
Gainer, D	$100,000
Garcia, R	$140,000
Hatekeyama, T	$125,000
Hernandez, G	$95,000
Holbaek, D	$60,000
Jones, J	$95,000
Juuko, J	$70,000
Ledon, R	$80,000
Lorcy, J	$50,000
Mayweather, F	$200,000
Ruelas, G	$85,000
Vargas, G	$95,000
Warren, H	$80,000

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Canizales, O	$95,000
Cermeno, A	$105,000
Chacon, P	$85,000
DeJesus, R	$50,000
Espinosa, L	$125,000
Hamed, N	$200,000
Ingle, P	$50,000
Lizzaraga, H	$85,000
Marquez, JM	$105,000
Medina, M	$95,000
Norwood, F	$110,000
Polo, V	$60,000
Quinones, B	$35,000
Ramirez, JC	$25,000
Rious, C	$25,000
Robinson, S	$55,000
Soto, C	$90,000
Vazquez, A	$85,000
Vazquez, W,	$85,000
Wehbee, T	$50,000

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS

Acero-Sanchez, H	$90,000
Barotillo, A	$30,000
Barrera, MA	$100,000
Bareto, C	$80,000
Botile, M	$80,000
Bungu, V	$135,000
Del Valle, R	$90,000
Espadas, G	$45,000
Garza, N	$120,000
Johnson, J	$60,000
Llerena, V	$65,000
McCullough, W	$100,000
McKinney, K	$90,000
Morales, E	$175,000
Romero, D	$100,000

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RYAN OUT LOUD

By Jeff Ryan

NOW THAT YOU'VE EARNED THAT SHEEPSKIN ...

As your commencement speaker, I would like to wholeheartedly congratulate all of you on this very special occasion. After four years at Boxing Fan University, you're now about to enter the cold, cruel world of the fight game, and you no doubt face this prospect with equal parts breathless anticipation and paralyzing fear. This is an important moment for you. I know. I've been there. For once, you feel as though you have the power to change everything, to have an enormous impact on the lives of many. Kind of like Jose Sulaiman when he overrules the WBC ratings committee.

Staring out at all of you, let me just say that I haven't seen this many tassels since Ivan Robinson last laced on his boxing shoes. There haven't been this many people with rolled-up documents in their hand since the last time the process servers located Mike Tyson. Oh, and by the way, please allow me to apologize for the absence of Butterbean, your first choice as commencement speaker. He was looking forward to the honor, but when he learned they were called commencement *exercises*, he got scared away. He probably thought someone was going to make him jump rope.

You're right, this is no time for lame attempts at humor. I learned that last year when I addressed the Class of '98 at Roundcard College, the all-girls school in Las Vegas. Thinking the ladies might have seen *The Graduate* a time or two on video, I told them I had one word for them as they prepared to march boldly into the future: plastics. Well, wouldn't you know it, half of them went right out and got breast implants.

Whether or not you choose to heed my words of wisdom today is up to you, but I offer them in the hope that your experience in the world of boxing turns into a gratifying one. So as you leave the comfort and familiarity of this leafy campus, try to always remember the following:

Grab a hold of every new day as though it's Lennox Lewis and you're Henry Akinwande.

Never root for a fighter with "Irish" in front of his name, or you'll have your heart broken.

Never *bet on* a fighter with "Irish" in front of his name, or you'll end up so far in debt to the bookie, you'll have your legs broken.

Don't lament the passing of time, for it means you're that much farther removed from the last Sugar Ray Leonard comeback, Cedric Kushner fight card, or Ray Mancini acting job.

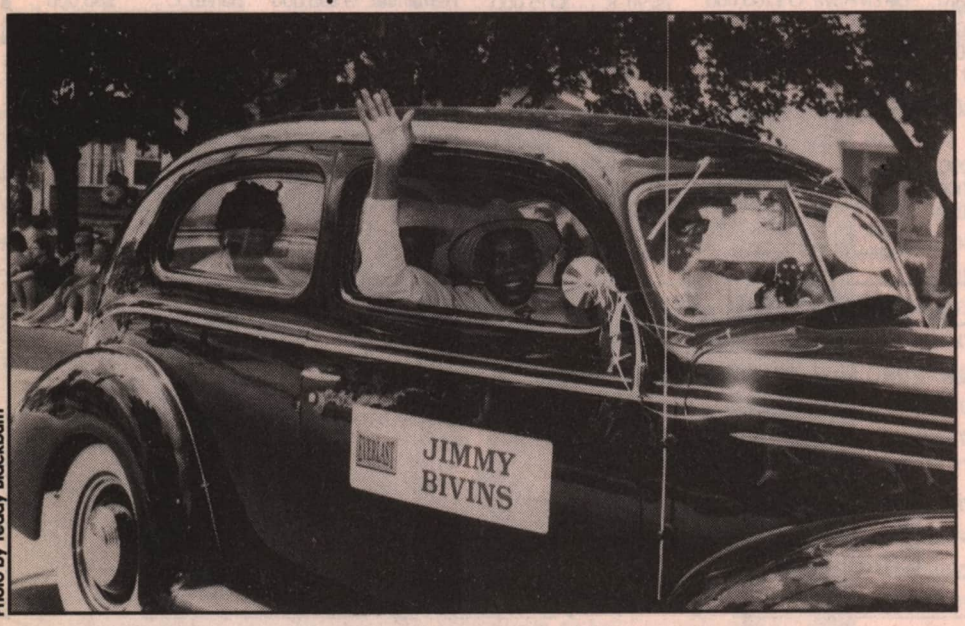


Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Canastota not Cooperstown ... it's better

Don't complain about the excessive bloodshed and gratuitous beatings in R-rated movies, then let your kids stay up late to watch Lou Savarese.

Never trust a female boxer who looks like a guy or a male boxer who talks like a girl.

Unless Rocky Marciano rises from the dead and comes back to fight for a unified heavyweight title, don't pay more than $29.95 for a pay-per-view telecast. Ever.

While watching *Friday Night Fights* on ESPN2, plan your bathroom breaks, beer runs, and phone calls to your buddies for whenever they throw it back to those two wing nuts in the studio.

Learn the meaning of one new word every day and, in twentysomething years, you'll be able to have a five-minute conversation with Jim Lampley.

Have no regrets—unless you never got to see Leonard, Muhammad Ali, and Roberto Duran fight live in their primes.

Have plenty of regrets if you got to see Greg Page, Trevor Berbick, and Tony Tubbs fight live in theirs.

Never listen to a man who has only bad things to say about Howard Cosell's commentary or good things to say about Ali's trash talk.

Install a dead-bolt lock and renew your pistol permit now that Tony Ayala Jr. has been released.

When visiting Canastota, don't expect Cooperstown. But when visiting Cooperstown, don't expect the inductees to spend hours signing free autographs, as they do in Canastota.

If you purposely run over your neighbor's cat, screw your landlord out of the rent, or get involved in a bitter feud with your dry cleaner, don't forget to wipe the smirk off your face when you appear in court on an installment of *Judge Mills Lane*.

Tape for posterity *The Honeymooners* episode in which Ralph trains to fight the bully he met at the pool hall, and Carlos Palomino decking a cocky Tony Banta with a bodyshot on *Taxi*.

Don't embarrass yourself by asking the clerk at Blockbuster why none of Marvin Hagler's movies can be found on the "Hot New Release" shelf.

Stop torturing yourself by thinking that, even on your luckiest day, Mia St. John would write her phone number beneath her autograph on your fight program.

Never drink so much that you start thinking Angel Manfredy's body art, Shannon Briggs' hairstyle, or Gil Clancy's toupee looks good.

Don't mistakenly think droopy-eyed David Reid is actually winking at your girlfriend, and then challenge him to step outside.

As a matter of fact, stay out of streetfights completely. But if one is unavoidable, remember to hold your hands higher than Naseem Hamed would and aim your punches lower than Andrew Golota does.

If you find yourself feeling discouraged, unappreciated, and without a job, don't fret. Remind yourself that lots of people are in your situation. Most of them used to be Oscar De La Hoya's trainers.

Unless Roy Jones makes a pit stop in the division, life's too short to watch a cruiserweight bout.

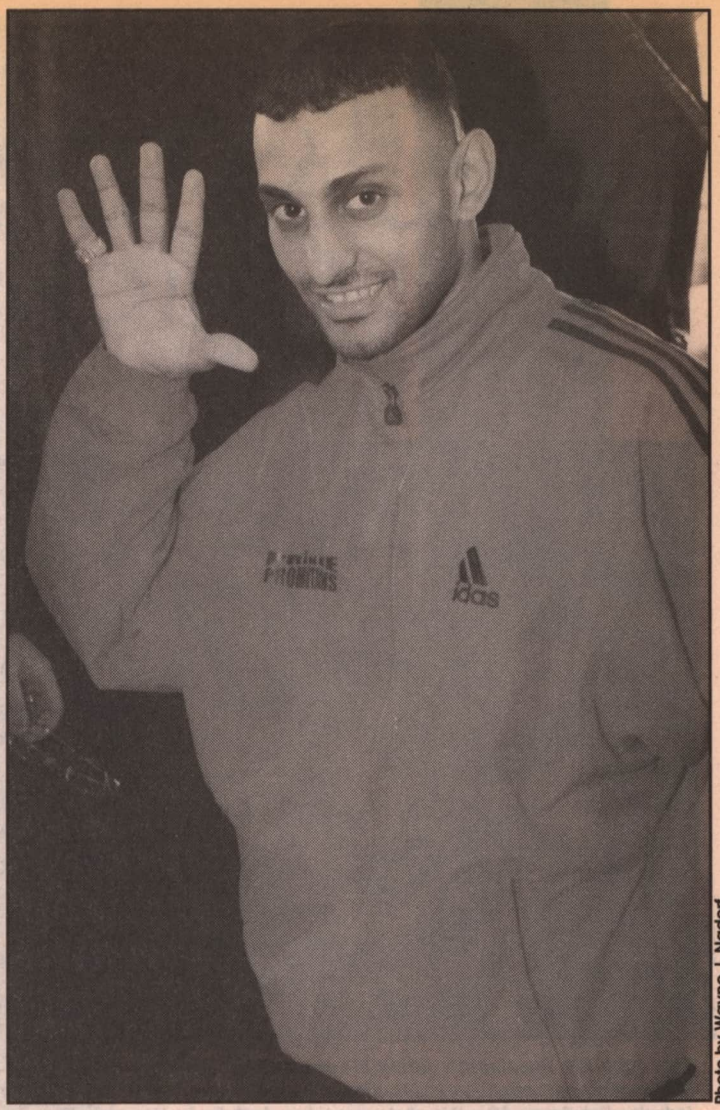


Photo by Wayne J. Nadorf

At least Naz has one hand up in this shot

Don't buy scalped tickets to *anything* or attend a card on which you can identify all of the winners before it even starts.

Be careful to not mistake the blood, smoke clouds, and aerial acrobatics of a Hamed fight for a *Kiss* concert, and foolishly hold aloft a lighter in the hope of hearing an encore rendition of "Beth."

Pray that Fernando Vargas' hair colorist makes a career change.

If you value your own hair and don't want to pull it out by the handfuls, don't get into a debate with anyone who starts the conversation by saying, "I'll tell you why a boxer couldn't beat a martial artist … "

Take a cold shower and watch an arena football game if you ever find yourself caring about "Leg-Iron" Mike Tyson.

The next time someone referring to the first Tyson-Holyfield fight says, "He *bit off his ear*," tell them if you wanted to hear a silly exaggeration, you'd ask the guys who run Forum Boxing for their attendance figures.

Never go to bed angry, even if you bet on Lewis to decision Holyfield and weren't satisfied with Eugenia Williams', uh, explanation.

Oh, yeah, and unless you tan like Michael Buffer, *always wear sunscreen*. ■

CAMERA CLICKS

International Boxing Hall Of Fame Induction Weekend

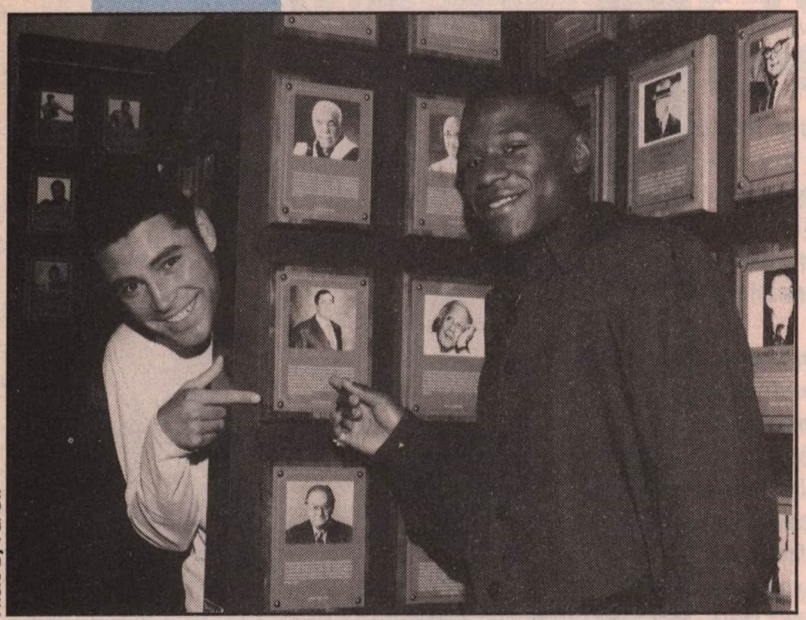


Photo by Pat Orr

This time it's the fighters doing the promoting, as Oscar De La Hoya and Floyd Mayweather call attention to the plaque honoring their promoter, 1999 Hall of Fame inductee Bob Arum. After this photo was taken, both De La Hoya and Mayweather walked around the museum searching for ideal wall space to reserve for themselves.

A confused Marvelous Marvin Hagler had a frustrating time trying to dial out on a Hall of Fame display phone. The former middleweight champ, who was inducted into the IBHOF in '93, couldn't understand why the operator insisted on telling him about the displays he was looking at.

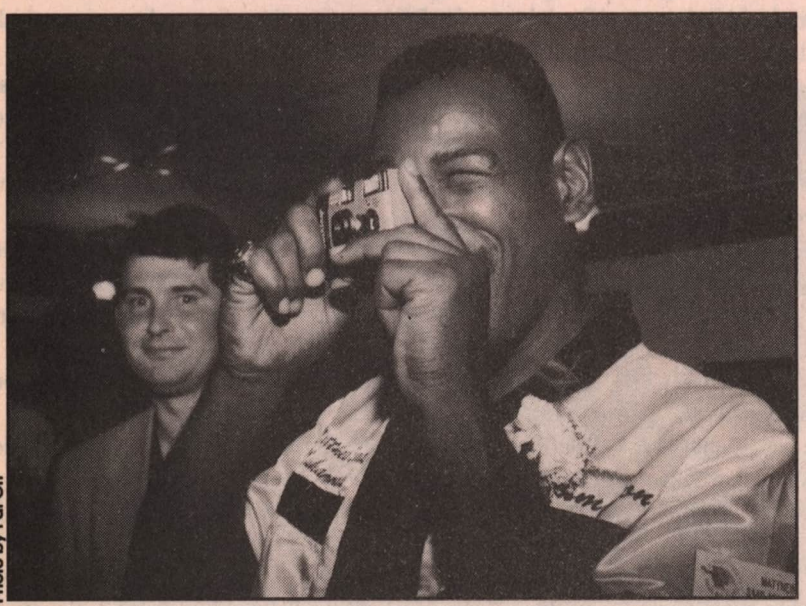


Photo by Pat Orr

1998 Hall of Fame inductee Matthew Saad Muhammad doubled his chances of making it into "Camera Clicks" by getting his picture taken while taking a picture. We didn't see how the former light heavyweight champ's photo turned out, but if his career was any indication, our guess is that he can take a helluva shot.

If Bo Derek wants to make herself appear to still be a "10" after all these years, standing next to Carmen Basilio's not a bad idea. Derek served as grand marshal of this year's induction parade.

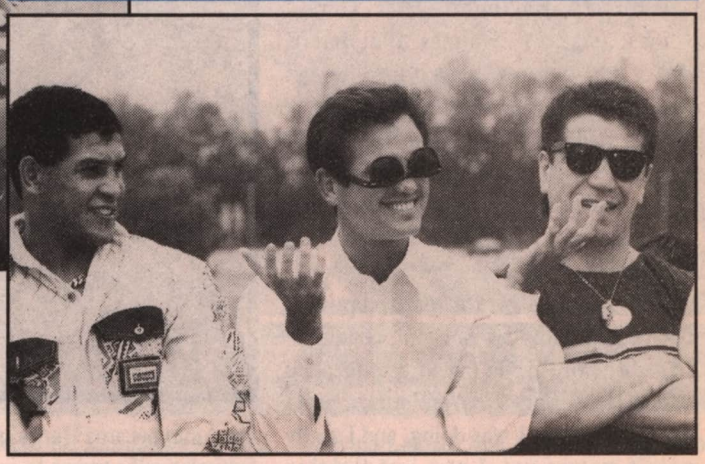
Judging by how much fun these three guys are having, it looks like somebody spiked the Hall of Fame punch. Speaking of Hall of Fame punch, that's exactly what two of these guys had, as Alexis Arguello and Sugar Ray Leonard are both enshrined. The third, Angel Manfredy, may eventually prove to be Canastota material as well.

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Hall of Fame weekend isn't all about fun, as HBO's Seth Abraham and promoter Don King spent some time getting down to business, working out the kinks in the Lennox Lewis-Evander Holyfield negotiations. By the way, Seth, it's nice that you to want to show that you're a Knicks fan, but the baseball hat and business suit look is even tackier than DK's hair.

Man overboard! Former lightweight champ Carlos Ortiz appears well on his way to getting tossed from the vehicle during the Hall of Fame parade. If you concentrate hard enough, you can almost hear Ortiz yelling, "Jane, stop this crazy thing!"

NOSTALGIA CORNER



At the '92 Hall of Fame weekend, former world champions Sean O'Grady and Vito Antuofermo engaged in a highly intellectual debate about the right way to wear your sunglasses. Sean, you know you're in trouble when even Hector Camacho is looking quizzically at your fashion sense.

HEAVYWEIGHT UPSTART MAURICE HARRIS

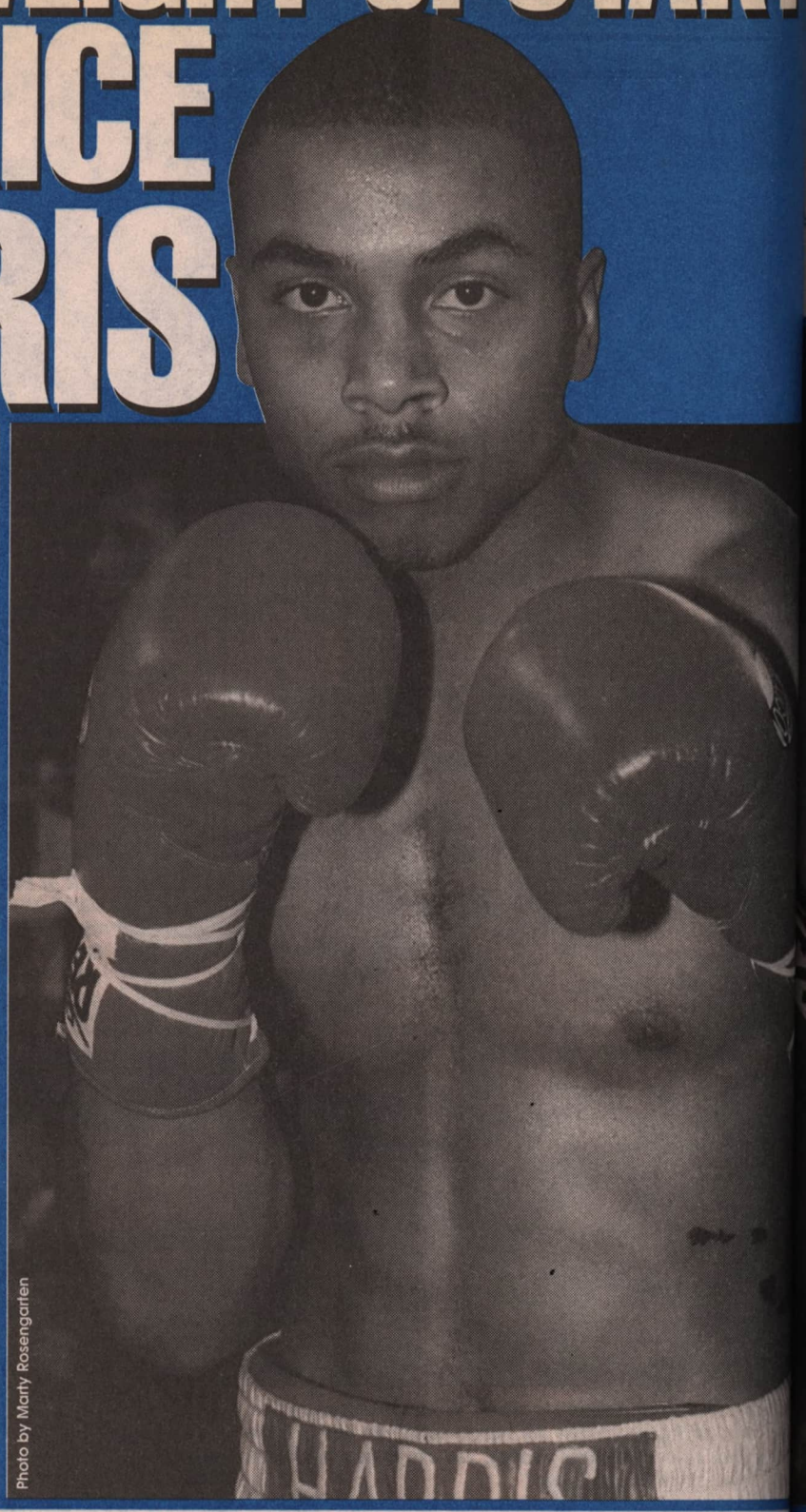


Photo by Marty Rosengarten

No Mo' Quitting On Himself

By Eric Raskin

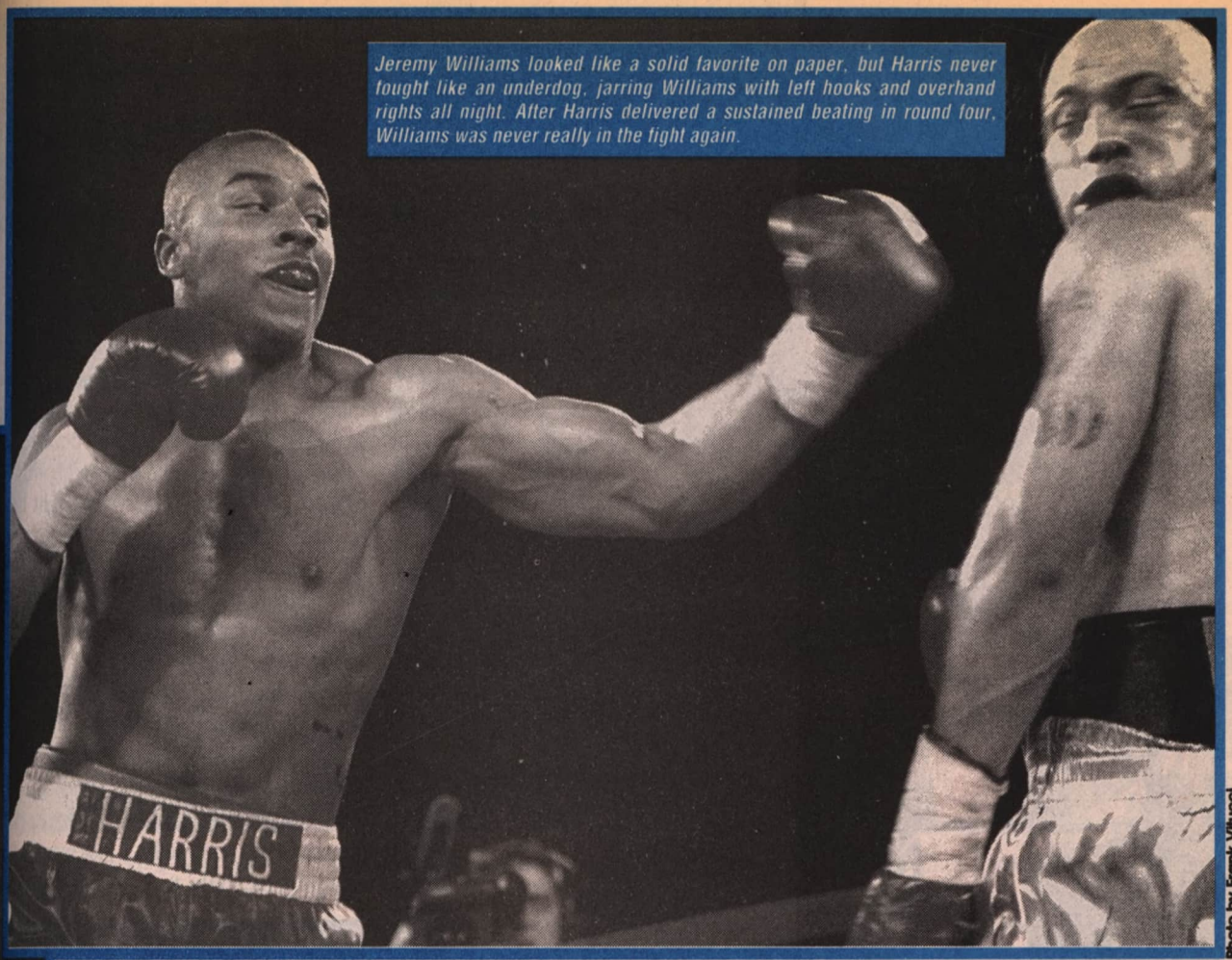
The prevailing question echoing through the press section following Maurice "Mo' Better" Harris' dominant upset win over Jeremy Williams on June 19 at The Theater at Madison Square Garden was, "Who the heck are the nine guys who beat this kid?"

The precise factual answer to that question is Joseph Kenna, Rick Frazier, Scott Lopeck, John Andrade, Vaughn Bean, Dale Brown, Dayton Wheeler, Gerald Nobles, and Larry Holmes. But Harris' answer to that question is a little different: Maurice Harris, Maurice Harris, Maurice Harris, Maurice Harris, Maurice Harris, Maurice Harris, Maurice Harris, Maurice Harris, and the judges in the Holmes fight.

"I was quitting against those guys early on," Harris, 15-9-2 (9), freely acknowledged as the reason for his deceptively mediocre record. "I was not in condition. I'd fight until I'd run out of gas, then I'd give up. I was only 17 when I turned pro; I had no idea what I was doing, and I really wasn't mature yet. I was just fighting because I wanted to find a way to get money without doing it illegally."

New Jersey real estate agent Yohannes Al-Amin became Harris' manager in 1995, optimistically trying to redirect the career of a 5-5-2 fighter who he could tell was a "rare talent" based on what he'd seen in the gym. But what he saw in Harris' first fight under his management, a four-rounder against Canadian Dale Brown, was sadly typical of what had led to the fighter's shoddy record.

"Maurice broke Dale Brown's nose in



Jeremy Williams looked like a solid favorite on paper, but Harris never fought like an underdog, jarring Williams with left hooks and overhand rights all night. After Harris delivered a sustained beating in round four, Williams was never really in the fight again.

Photo by Frank Vitucci

two places in the first round, and after the second round, Brown was a beaten man," Al-Amin explained. "But in the third, Maurice started to run out of gas, and just decided to quit. He was always cutting corners in his training. He was his own worst enemy."

But that was four years ago. And Harris' last defeat was two years ago, when the judges handed down his highly controversial split-decision loss to Holmes. Now, Harris is the worst enemy of every heavyweight who signs a contract to fight him, a lesson the once-promising Williams, 34-3 (31), learned the hard way when Harris effectively eliminated him from contention. Harris wobbled Williams in the second round with an overhand right, battered the brittle-chinned Californian from one side of the ring to the other throughout a fourth round that all three judges scored 10-8 even though there were no knockdowns, and won every remaining stanza while the favored Williams just did what he could to survive. Judge Fred Ucci scored the fight 98-91, Steve Weisfeld had it 98-90, and Melvina Latham saw it 99-89, all in favor of Harris. And the kicker was that the lanky 23-year-old from Newark, New Jersey, had scored his breakout win fighting on just five days notice.

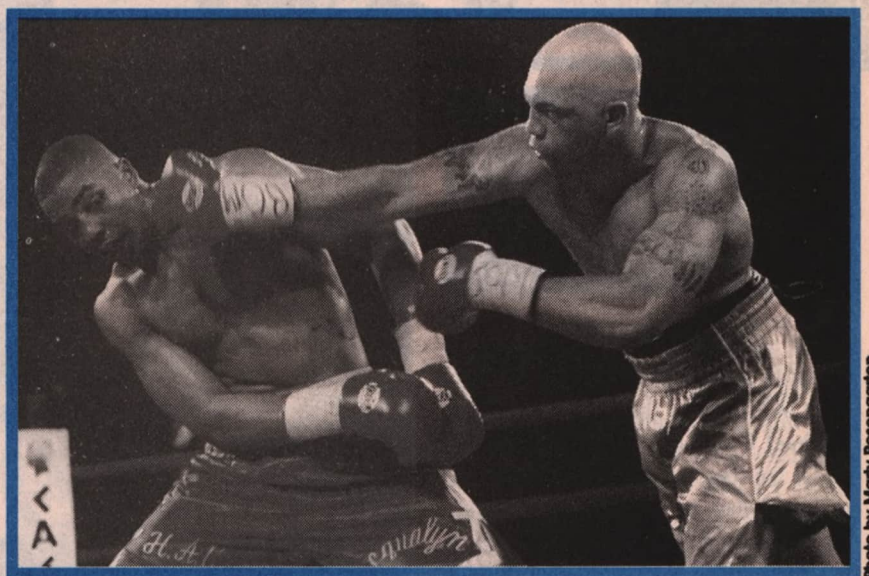


Photo by Marty Rosengarten

Harris' slick defense kept him just out of Williams' reach whenever the 26-year-old Californian would attempt to mount a rally. Harris credits friend Floyd Mayweather, the WBC super featherweight champion, with teaching him a lot of his defensive techniques.

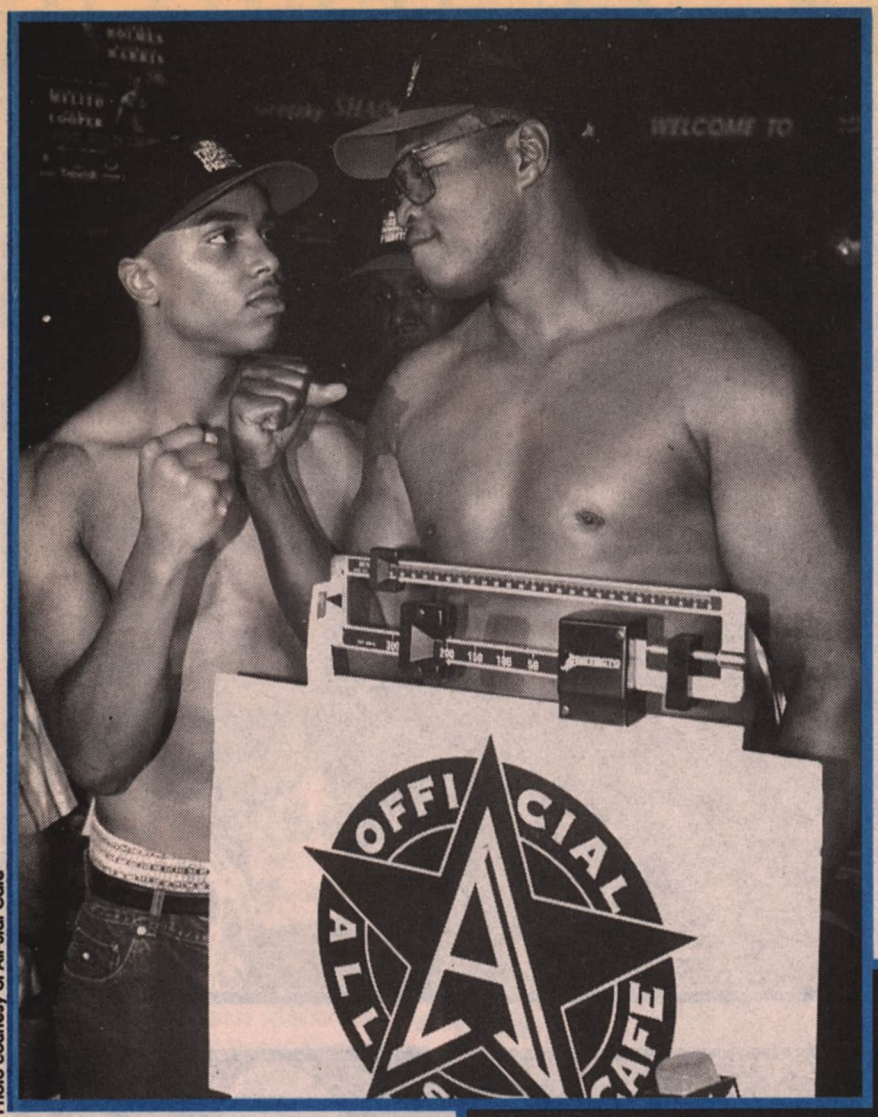
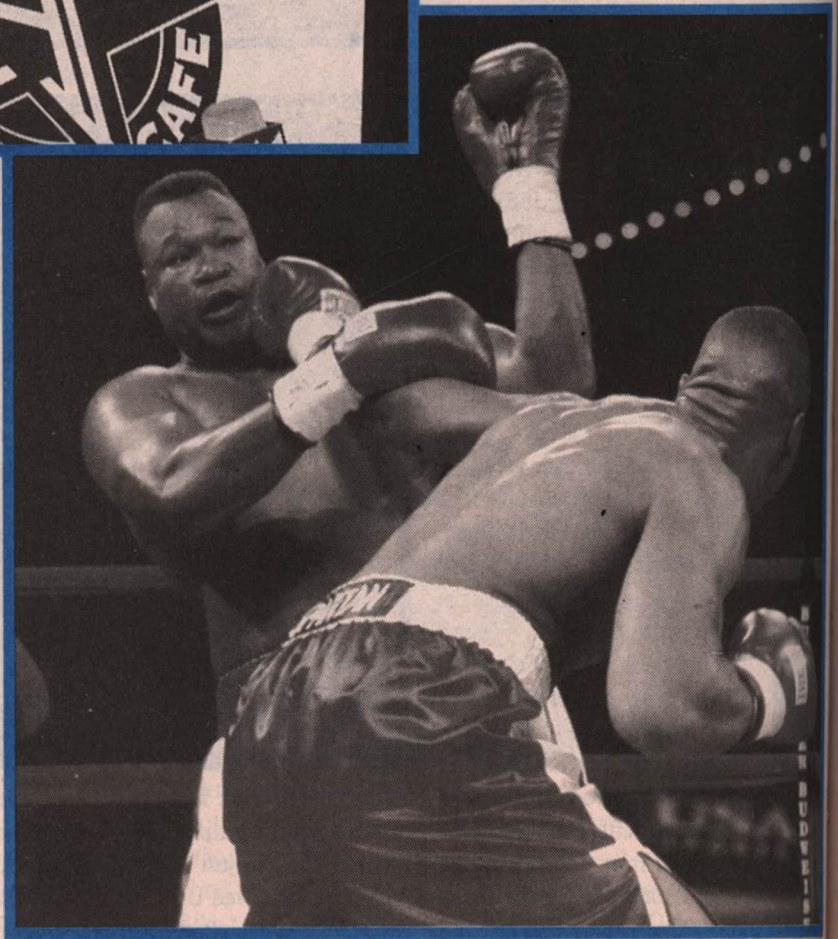


Photo courtesy of All-Star Cafe

Harris' highest profile fight prior to the Williams win was his unpopular decision loss to Larry Holmes in '97. Harris wasn't intimidated by the legendary "Easton Assassin" at the weigh-in (above) or during the fight (right), and appeared to most observers to have won convincingly.

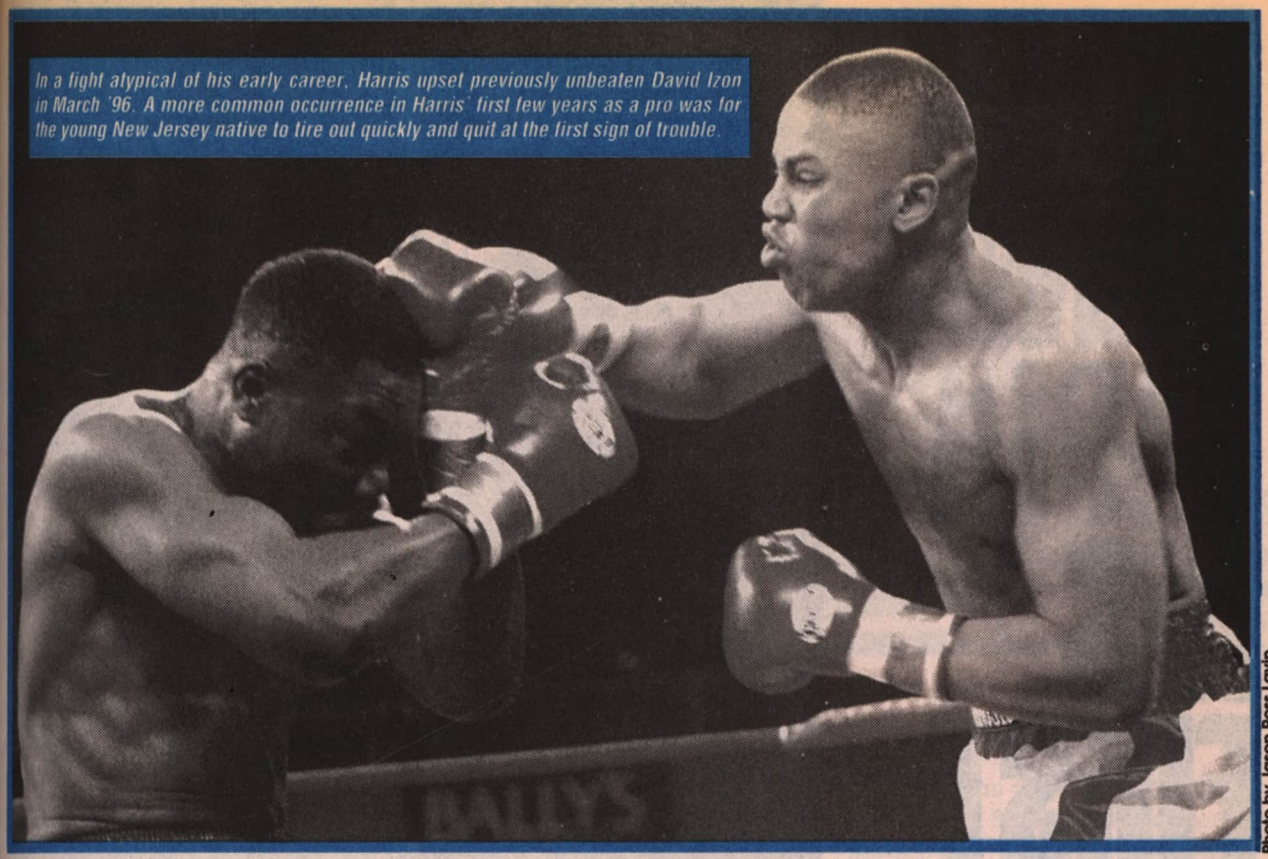


For reasons that are especially difficult to justify in hindsight, nobody wanted to fight Williams as the co-feature to the Michael Grant-Lou Savarese fight on HBO. Ike Ibeabuchi considered the half-million dollars he was offered too insulting. Hasim Rahman pulled out the week of the fight citing back problems, though most insiders suspected the aggravations were more managerial than lumbar. But Harris didn't hesitate to say yes when he got the call (and a career-high $40,000 purse offer) the Tuesday before the fight.

"I was always waiting for this moment, this chance," Harris said. "So I didn't think twice about taking the fight. It was a chance to fight on HBO, on *Boxing After Dark*. I was just so pumped up mentally for the occasion that although I was tired, I never let it get the best of me."

How tired was Harris? Since knocking out Louis Monaco in one round four weeks earlier, Harris had been keeping active in the gym, but wasn't doing any roadwork. His ideal training includes running every other day for six weeks, but this time he had to cram as much as he could into the four days he had to prepare, which meant running five miles each day and weighing in at just 205 pounds, a good dozen or so below his desired fighting weight. And on top of that, Harris injured his right hand midway through the fight. If ever there was a litmus test for whether this was the same fighter who used to throw in the towel with Vinny Vecchione-like abandon, this was it.

"Maurice is very good. His record speaks nothing about his talent," said a disappointed Williams. "I had trained to fight Rahman, a big, aggressive puncher, and I ended up fighting a quick mover who punches very accurately. I just wasn't able to adjust mentally to a different style of



In a fight atypical of his early career, Harris upset previously unbeaten David Izon in March '96. A more common occurrence in Harris' first few years as a pro was for the young New Jersey native to tire out quickly and quit at the first sign of trouble.

Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

fighter. But I can't take anything away from Maurice Harris. He beat me up and down."

Beating Williams up and down was the culmination, thus far, of a career that has seen all too many downs and not enough ups. But the ups are coming with considerably greater regularity now, a trend that owes to a number of factors. First off, there was the influence of Al-Amin, who recognized that Harris had to separate himself from his troubled past in the notorious Newark projects. Harris' mother died of a sudden heart attack at just 32 years of age, when Maurice was 10 years old. With his father not around enough to rely on, Harris moved in with his grandparents, but their influence wasn't strong enough to keep him off the streets and out of trouble. His decision to start boxing at the age of 15 after seeing the Evander Holyfield-George Foreman fight helped him clean up his act, but Al-Amin knew another step had to be taken.

"I wanted to isolate him from his hostile environment," Al-Amin said, "so I took him out of the projects and got him an apartment in East Orange, New Jersey. I put him on an allowance to keep him off the streets. I became like his surrogate father, his big brother, his mentor, and someone he could trust. His dad was out on the streets. Maurice was out on the streets. It was difficult winning him over to the point where he'd trust me. But eventually I did, and he has a sense of his potential now. I've been supporting Maurice for four years out of pocket. But I think we're on track to finally be in the black by the end of the year."

Al-Amin got Harris pointed in the right direction, but it took a single event in April of '98 to complete Harris' attitude transformation: his marriage to wife Shanda. After that, he began to understand his responsibility to her, to her daughter from a previous relationship, Tanesia, to his daughter from a previous relationship, Wren, and to their son, Maurice Jr. (Another son, Shafi, has since followed.)

"I always had the talent, but not the will—until I got married," Harris said. "That's why I fight the way I do now. I just want the best things out of life for my children. I take every fight real seriously because it's so important to support my family. And now, doing well makes boxing a lot more exciting for me. I love going to the gym now; it feels good."

Harris' personal improvements have led directly to professional improvements, and no one has served as a better witness to those than Tommy Parks, who has known Harris since before he turned pro and has served as his head trainer for the past couple of years. Parks was thrilled with how well Harris did against Williams considering his lack of preparation, but he sees that his fighter still has some developing to do.

"He always had some real good natural abilities, but the main problem was he had a lack of confidence," Parks said of the 6'4" Harris. "Now he's got that confidence. He always had good rhythm, a good sense of timing; he moves well. But he was strictly an outside fighter, which made sense because he was taller than everybody back then, when he only weighed 175 pounds. I'm still trying to make him more of an inside fighter because when he's fighting these guys now who are bigger than him, he has to get inside and bang to the body and tire the other guys out.

"I'd like him to be a little higher in weight, but his weight is distributed well. He's got big arms, good legs, and no butt, and that's good. The fighters that are too heavy carry that weight in their behind. That's what makes them slow. I wouldn't mind a little more weight in the torso, but his build allows him to hit hard and move well."

(Continued on page 59)

AYALA HANDS TAPIA HIS FIRST LOSS!

Sour Grapes Can't Diminish This Sweet Brawl

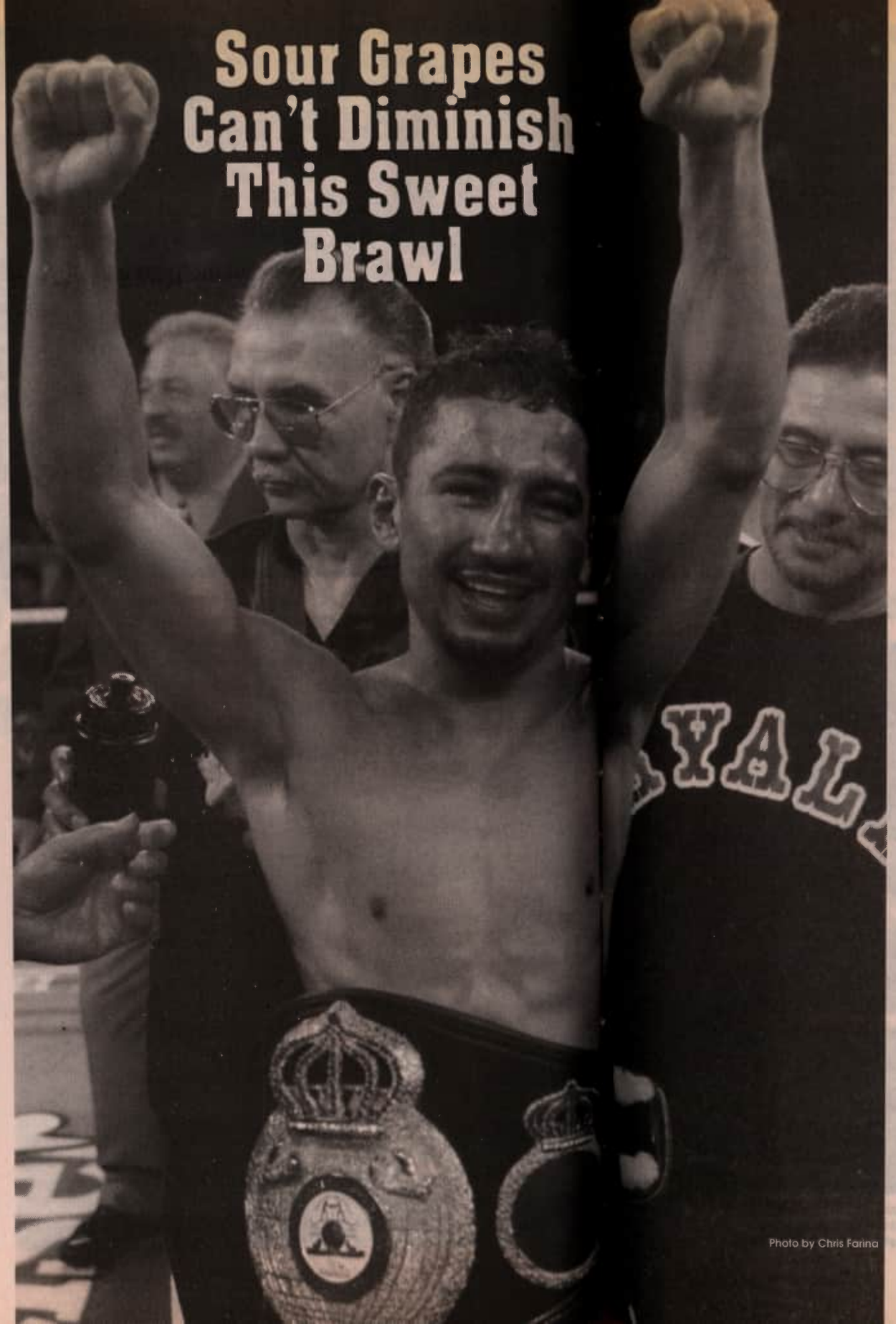
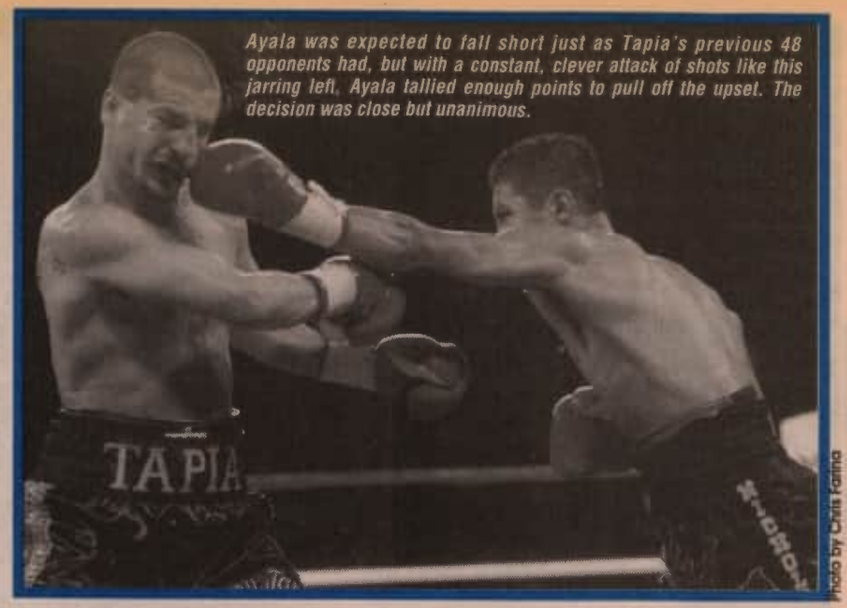


Photo by Chris Farina



Ayala was expected to fall short just as Tapia's previous 48 opponents had, but with a constant, clever attack of shots like this jarring left, Ayala tallied enough points to pull off the upset. The decision was close but unanimous.

Photo by Chris Farina

By Tim Graham

The final bell clanged. Paulie Ayala raised his hands toward the rafters and then collapsed to the canvas. He knew what he had just done. The crowd knew, too. Ayala was lifted into the air by his cornermen, and the same fans who booed him at the beginning of the fight wildly exalted his electrifying performance.

Within moments, Johnny Tapia was hoisted by his trainers. The popular pummeler, thrilling in his own right, was roundly jeered after having entered the ring to chants of "John-ny! John-ny!" The decision seemed inevitable.

Yet an air of doubt exuded amid the arena buzz. One ringside reporter, possibly thinking back to decisions in which judges were called into question for considering star power as much as punches landed, turned to a fellow scribe and said, "Tapia gets the decision." It was a compelling thought, one Ayala would later admit went though his mind before the official decision was announced. The Tapia camp certainly agreed with it.

"Paulie Ayala's a great fighter," Tapia's wife and manager, Teresa, said. "But Paulie didn't do enough to take a title from a champion. No way."

But when Jimmy Lennon Jr. bellowed the result, a collective sigh of relief arose within the Mandalay Bay Events Center. Ayala, the 29-year-old lefthander from Fort Worth, Texas, had accomplished a feat 48 opponents before him had attempted unsuccessfully: He had beaten the mighty Tapia.

The June 26 bout was much more significant than that. In what could go down as the Fight of the Year and one of the most entertaining in recent Las Vegas memory, Ayala and Tapia showed no fear of one another. The 118-pound pistons never took a round off or a step backward, going toe-to-toe and trading shot after shot. It was a night that cried out for a temporary return to 15-round title fights.

The SET pay-per-view event was so riveting, Showtime held a national media teleconference with Tapia and Ayala to promote the cable replay. Sadly, so few people bought the epic battle that Top Rank could have lost up $400,000 on the card, which also included a widely publicized four-rounder between Eric "Butterbean" Esch and Peter McNeeley, Stevie Johnston's WBC lightweight title defense against Aldo Rios, and a junior middleweight attraction featuring Yory Boy Campas and Ronald Weaver.

But the main event alone was worth far more than the $30 it took to purchase the pay-per-view. Although evenly scored rounds are frowned upon in Nevada, each judge scored one that way. It was likely they struggled with that dilemma several times during the fight. Guy Jutras gave Ayala a 115-114 edge, while Fernando Viso and Duane Ford scored it 116-113.

"It seemed like every round came down to the last 10 seconds," Marc Ratner, Nevada State Athletic Commission executive director, said. THE RING, crediting Ayala as the aggressor in many of the rounds, scored it 117-111. The rounds were so close, however, that if any of the above scores had been reversed, the judge wouldn't be vilified.

"It only punctuated the whole decision to hear it announced," Ayala said of Lennon's call. "But I knew ahead of time. I knew I won it. In my heart I won the fight. I was just hoping it wasn't going to be a relapse of Japan."

Ayala, 28-1 (12), was alluding to the disappointment he experienced in August of 1998, at a time when the gym rat who started boxing at the age of five was poised to reach the peak of his second boxing career.

While posting a 360-24 amateur record and winning national Junior Olympic and Texas Golden Gloves championships, Ayala felt burned out in 1990, and quit for

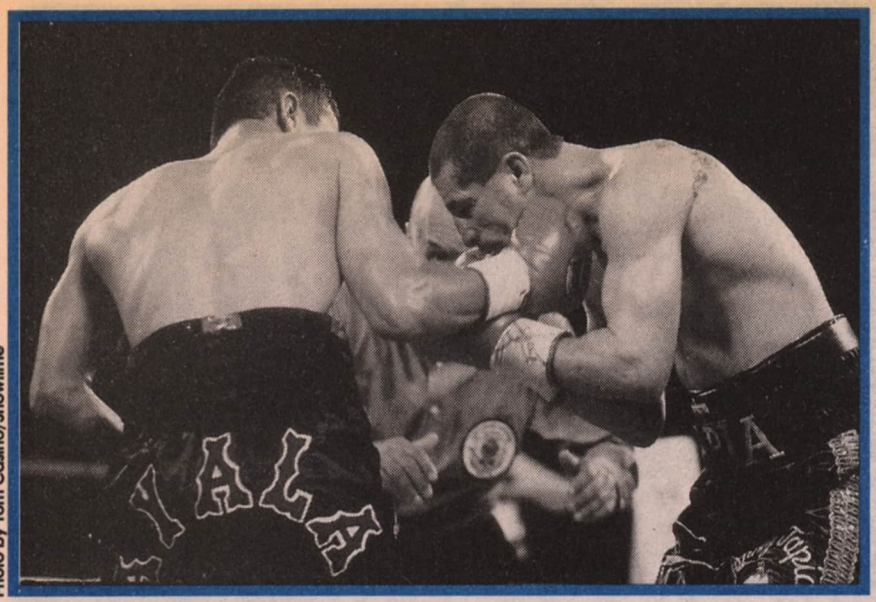


Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime

Tapia made the tactical mistake of getting into an inside slugfest with the quick-handed Ayala, instead of relying on his exceptional movement and long-range skills. The win brought redemption for the Texan, who had failed to win a world title against Japan's Joichiro Tatsuyoshi in '98.

two years. It took the prospect of fighting in the '92 Barcelona Olympics to get him back into the ring, but his dreams evaporated when he won the silver medal at the Olympic Trials.

Coming up short as an amateur didn't deter Ayala. He turned pro that year and won his first 25 fights and an NABF title. He would never be able to wear gold around his neck, but that wouldn't quell his desire to wear it around his waist. That's what sent him packing to Yokohama.

It took Ayala nearly six years to get a world title shot, and he agreed to challenge Joichiro Tatsuyoshi on the then-WBC champ's home turf. In the sixth round, a clash of heads resulted in a gash over Tatsuyoshi's right eye, and the fight was stopped. The decision went to the scorecards, where Ayala was a close loser. Ayala thought he had won.

That experience was put to use against Tapia, 46-1-2 (25), who long has been a fan favorite. Tapia lives in Las Vegas and also draws a number of followers from his native Albuquerque, New Mexico. Ayala, a 5½-1 underdog, knew he was up against more than an undefeated legend. The fact that Ayala was able to win over the crowd in such convincing fashion was astounding, in and of itself.

"I knew I could hold him off if I could get the crowd into it," Ayala said. "That was one of the differences. Tapia goes on emotion. In order to bring the fans onto my side, I pretty much had to overwhelm him every round."

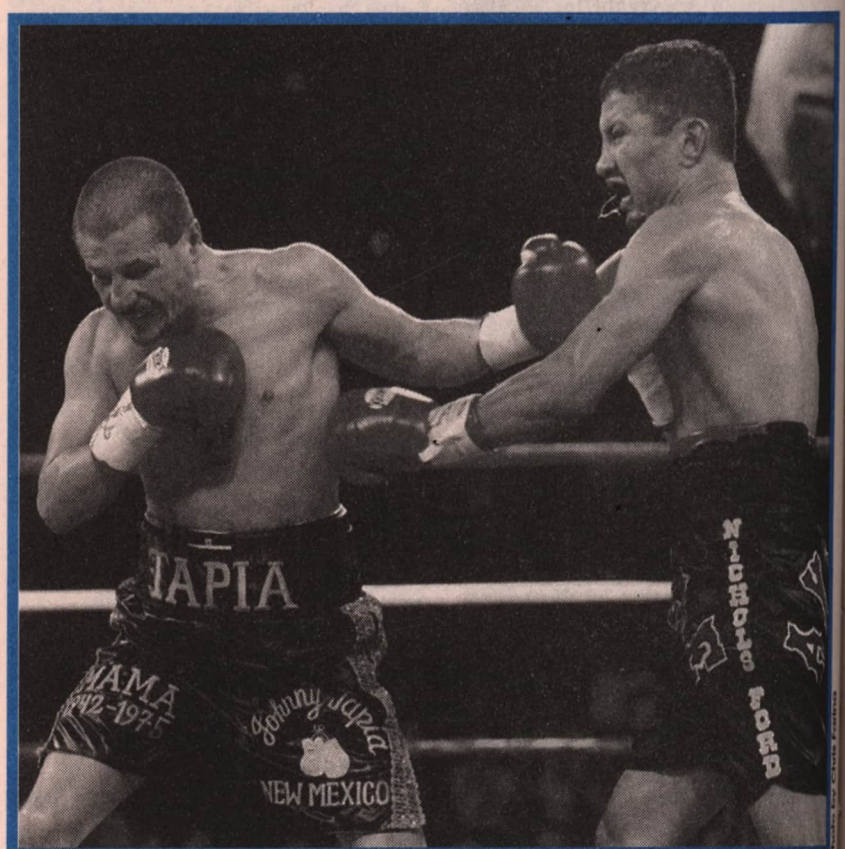
The 32-year-old Tapia may well have entered the ring already overwhelmed. According to Top Rank matchmaker Bruce Trampler, Las Vegas Metro Police entered Tapia's dressing room before the fight to clear it out, citing too many people had crowded the area. Tapia, a man who finds strength in his family and friends, was incensed. Upon entering the ring, Tapia charged Ayala's corner and shoved him.

"I knew we were in trouble right then," Tapia's trainer, Freddie Roach, said. "Johnny was caught up in the moment." In the ensuing fracas, Robert Gutierrez, a Tapia cornerman who also is Teresa Tapia's brother, was arrested for assaulting a police officer.

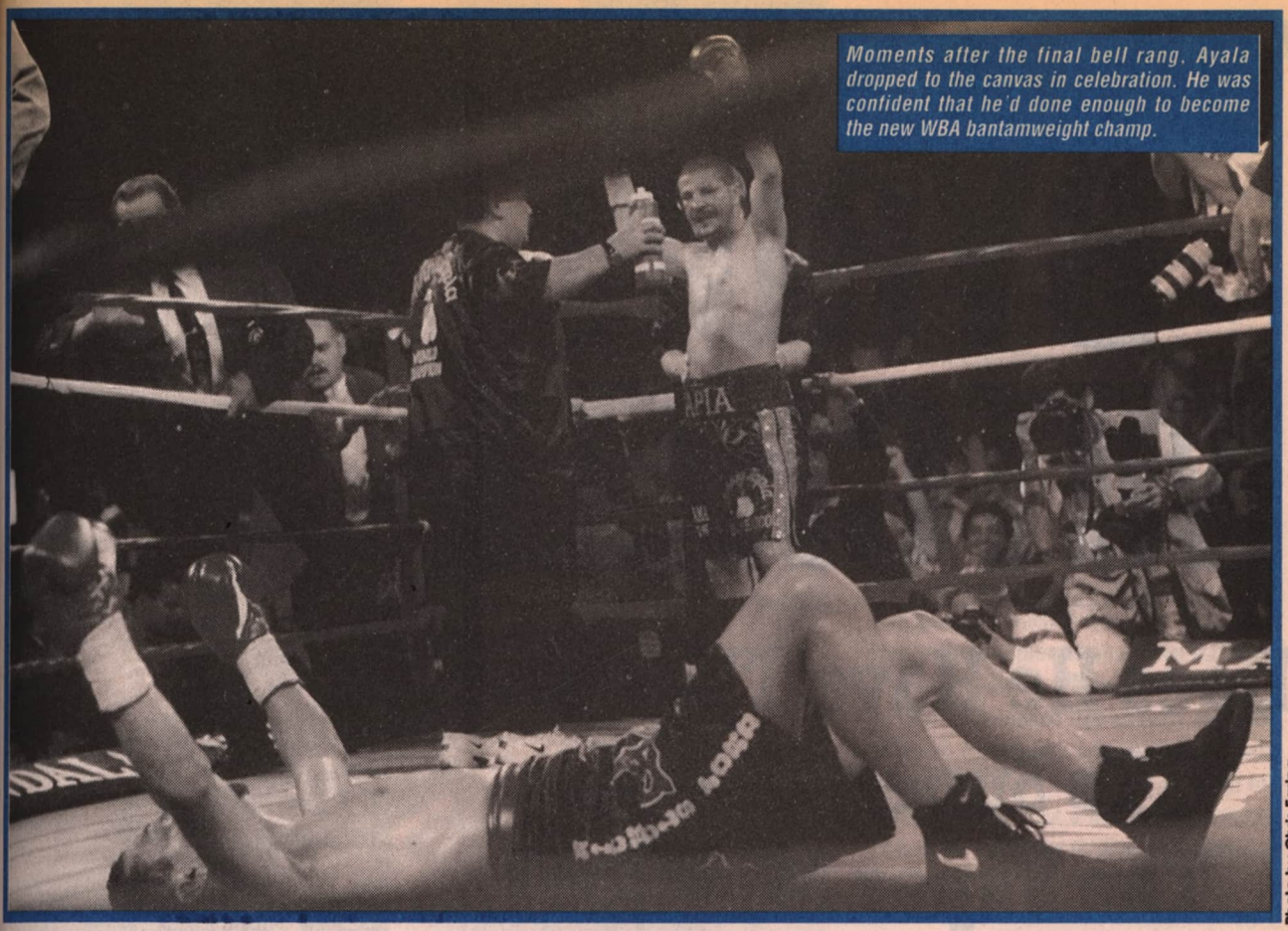
"I lost my cool because of all the cops here in Las Vegas booking my team," Tapia said. "I felt bad, and I was frustrated."

Tapia was able to settle down, winning the first round on all three judges' scorecards. He boxed Ayala the way everyone expected him to, sticking and moving. It was the only round Tapia would unanimously take. The rest of the fight, Tapia didn't come close to following his opening-round strategy, and that may have spelled his doom.

"Freddie Roach made a mistake by allowing Johnny Tapia to stay in front of Ayala and trade punches," said Alexis



Tapia landed his fair share of punches as well, such as this ferocious left hook. The two-division world champion felt very strongly that he deserved to win the fight, and implied after the decision was rendered that the judges were influenced by the knowledge that his contract with Top Rank was up.



Moments after the final bell rang, Ayala dropped to the canvas in celebration. He was confident that he'd done enough to become the new WBA bantamweight champ.

Photo by Chris Farina

Arguello, the lightweight legend who called SET's Spanish telecast. "Tapia should have been in-out, in-out, in-out. He stood next to Ayala at close range. That was a mistake."

Ayala set the tone for the rest of the fight in the second round, refusing to back down from Tapia's willingness to mix it up inside. With 45 seconds left, a straight left snapped Tapia's head back. The 5,003 fans in attendance then knew this was going to be a fight like Tapia had never been in before.

"When you're the challenger," Arguello said, "you have to go for it, and Tapia facilitated it because he stood there."

Ayala got the crowd worked up early in the third, landing a right hook to the top of Tapia's head, followed by a stinging right to the jaw. An Ayala right hook drew "oohs" when it thudded against Tapia's skull with 1:10 left. The champion smiled and stuck out his tongue in response. That wasn't odd for Tapia. What was strange, however, was that his head was twisting around so much from the force of an opponent's fists.

Ayala wasn't as active in the fourth, while Tapia landed heavy shots to the ribs. Tapia also started to lead with his head, and, with 1:20 remaining in the round, referee Joe Cortez noted an accidental headbutt that made both fighters rub their scalps and wince.

The middle rounds were comprised of seemingly non-stop flurries. They traded to the body, to the head. There was little holding. The rounds packed so much action they felt like they all ran together. Only in the sixth round, when Tapia tried to go southpaw, but quickly switched back, was there a discernible disruption of the heated action.

The upset could be clearly sensed by even the most ardent Tapia fan when the 10th round began, but Ayala didn't necessarily see the pending outcome. Tapia came out of his corner with a nasty slice in his hairline, causing blood to stream into his left eye. Cortez called a timeout to allow ringside physician Dr. Flip Homansky a quick examination, and Ayala had his first Japanese flashback. But the bout recommenced, and both fighters appeared to possess enough energy and stamina to see the whole thing through.

Ayala could feel the moment at the end of the 11th. He won the round late with a bevy of headshots from which Tapia refused to back away. As the bell sounded to pause the action, Ayala turned to yell at press row, lifting his left glove above his head and thumping his chest with the right. He was in control, and he knew it.

Maybe Tapia did, too. Every chance he could in the 12th round, he circled his right hand in the air, asking—perhaps begging—the crowd for a reaction that could spur him on. The ploy, which elicited cheers in the eighth round, brought boos this time. The reaction didn't stunt Tapia's resolve. He and Ayala produced one of the best exchanges of the night, punching incessantly for the final 25 seconds. The round was so close, two judges scored it 10-10.

A fan needed only to look at Tapia's face to see he had lost. His mug looked like a raw cut of bad prime rib. He had a shiner under his right eye, and various cuts, abrasions, and bruises cluttered his head.

"That's the sign of a loser," Arguello said. "He got hit a lot."

As ecstatic as Ayala was with the victory, Tapia was equally as despondent with

(Continued on page 62)

'BAMA SLAMMA BYRON MITCHELL

Does He Have The Power To Super Charge The Super Middles?

By D.E. Thomas

It took a transplant from Florida to finally bring a major professional boxing championship to Alabama. Byron Mitchell, a native of Orlando who moved to Ozark, Alabama, as a youth, did what Joe Louis, Evander Holyfield, Tracy Patterson, and Frankie Randall never did. All of those world champions were born in Alabama, but each one left before ever putting on a pair of gloves and earning a spot in ring history.

Mitchell had ample opportunity to move elsewhere to pursue his professional boxing career, but he chose to stay in the tiny town he's called home for most of his life. When he scored a stunning come-from-behind 11th-round knockout of Frankie Liles to win the WBA super middleweight championship, Mitchell accomplished a mission he set for himself when he turned pro after being ousted from the 1996 Olympic Trials.

"Georgia is on the map," Mitchell proclaimed. "Mississippi is on the map. Florida is on the map. People don't think people in Alabama do anything, that we're just cotton-pickers or pea-growers or whatever. I want to put Alabama on the map and show people what we can do. We put people in the NBA and we have people playing pro football in the NFL. Hopefully, this will inspire the other boxers that they can do it here."

Winning the championship in such dramatic fashion marks the 25-year-old Mitchell as an exciting new face in the sport. It also set off a major celebration in his hometown, which quickly proclaimed a "Byron Mitchell Day" in his honor. Even in Alabama, Ozark is best known as a bump in the road on the highway to Panama City Beach, Florida, a popular vacation destination. The biggest building in the city, population 13,000, is the three-story courthouse in the middle of the town square. Ozark's red lights number less than a dozen. It isn't Mayberry RFD, but it's close.

Bringing home a world championship looked like it would be an easy task for the dynamite-fisted Mitchell, who unofficially knocked out 90 opponents in 115 amateur fights. Liles, 34, landed a strong left hand in the opening round to establish himself, but Mitchell stormed back to knock the champion down in the second. Mitchell threw a short, sneaky left hook behind a jab and violently snapped Liles' head back. He followed up with a pair of rights that left the champion on the canvas.

"With a southpaw, you have to sort of throw your jab at a hooking angle," Mitchell explained. "I was trying to loop it over and I caught him. On the tape, I saw that hurt him quite a bit, but I didn't realize it at the time.

"I saw on the tapes I had looked at [before the fight] that when Liles gets his back near the ropes, he had ring generalship. He would usually duck down to his left, so that's where I threw my right. I hit him with a temple shot and I just followed it up with another, and he went down."

But what looked like an early night for Mitchell turned into a long night's work. With more than a minute left to finish off Liles, he threw just a handful of punches before the bell rang to give the champion a reprieve.

Mitchell had studied Liles for two years, knowing his shot at the WBA champion would come one day. He knew every move of the man who had held the 168-pound belt for nearly five years, but Liles did something that caught the challenger completely off-guard following the knockdown.

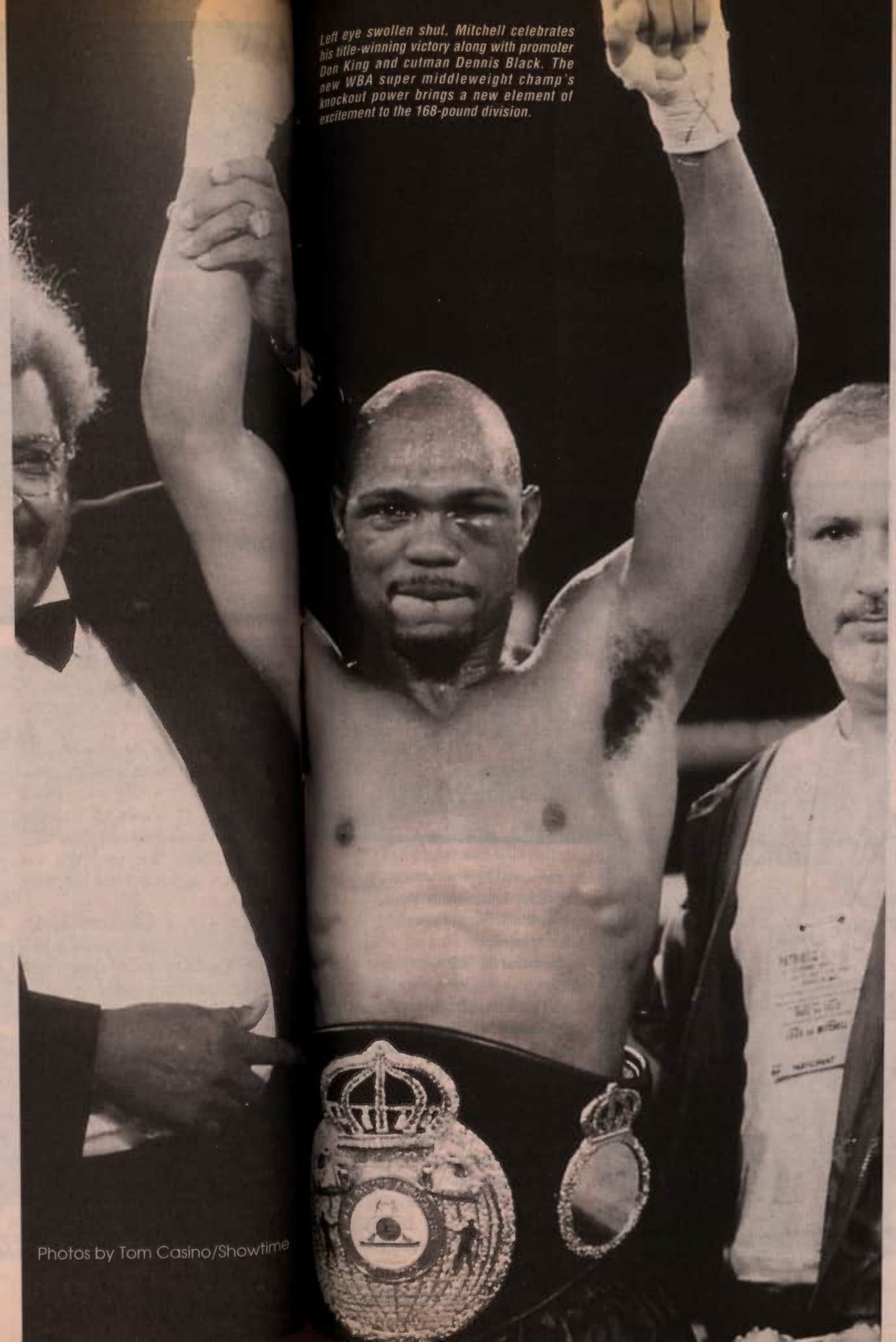
"He got up, and that threw me off," Mitchell admitted. "I'm not used to guys getting up after I knock them down.

"My idea was not to get overly excited. This guy hadn't been champion for so many years for nothing. I had seen the film where he fought Tim Littles. They had knocked each other down, and he got up and knocked Littles out with a right hook. I knew he was dangerous."

That danger didn't come in the form of a bomb to answer Mitchell's power. Instead, Liles leveled the playing field with a shot that handicapped the challenger for the rest of the bout.

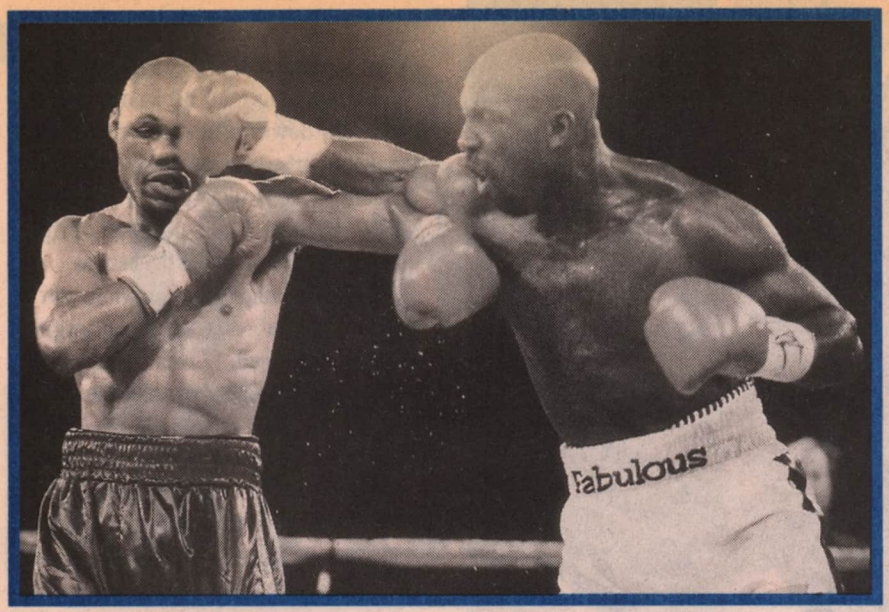
"He landed a straight left to my eye," Mitchell said. "I felt it swell up immediately, and I started having trouble with my vision."

Starting with the third round, Liles began to parlay his years of championship experience into a big lead. He turned



Left eye swollen shut, Mitchell celebrates his title-winning victory along with promoter Don King and cutman Dennis Black. The new WBA super middleweight champ's knockout power brings a new element of excitement to the 168-pound division.

Photos by Tom Casino/Showtime



Even though he was floored in the second round, Liles came back to pull ahead on the scorecards, utilizing his boxing skills and accurate punches such as this right hook to Mitchell's damaged left eye.

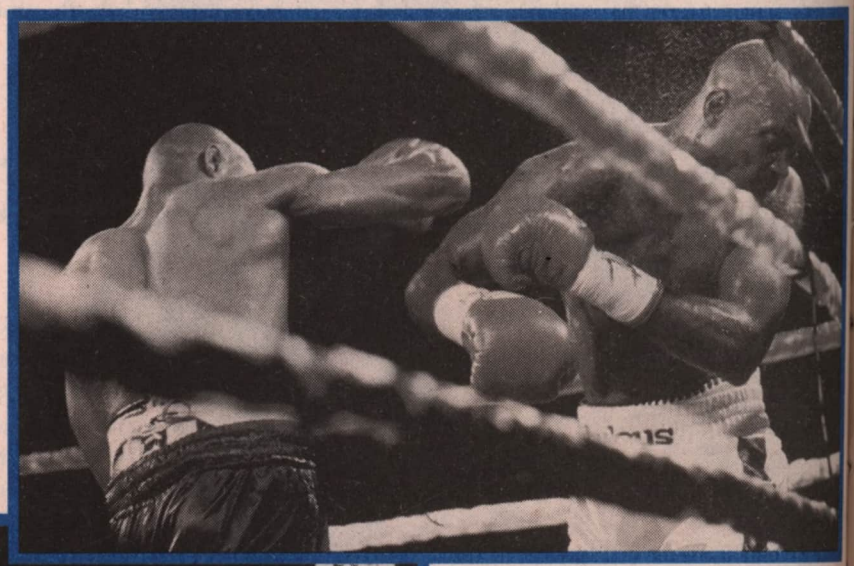
angles and boxed awkwardly, keeping Mitchell following and tying up the challenger whenever he closed the distance. Mitchell seemed to have no solutions as Liles piled up points. By the late rounds, the champion seemed well on the way to another successful title defense.

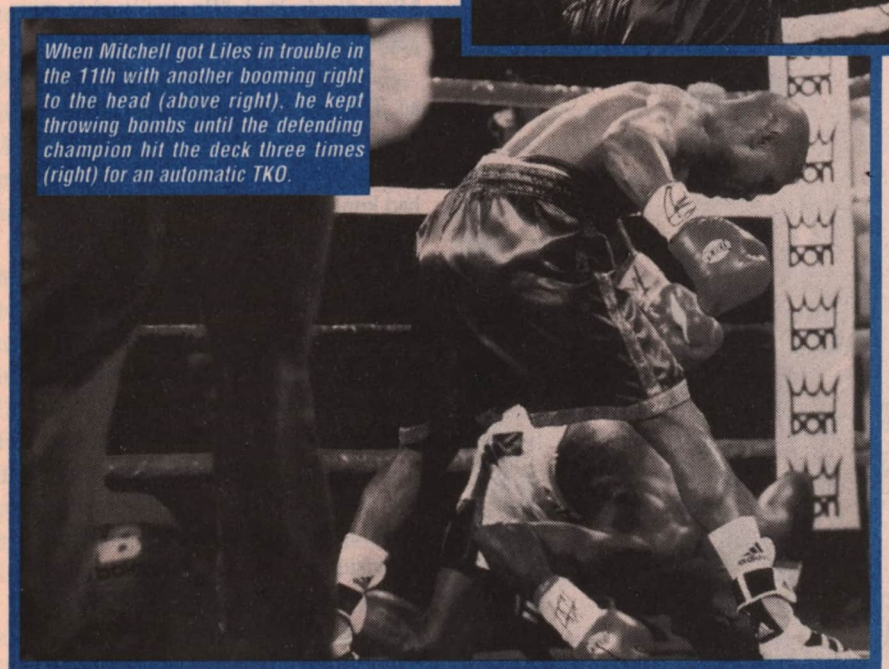
A lot of things were going through Mitchell's mind. He had never been past eight rounds before, and he held back because he doubted his stamina. He had never had to box with a closed eye, and he had trouble focusing on the target.

"I knew I was too strong for him," Mitchell said, "but it seemed like from the third round to the ninth, my feet were in quicksand. I saw the openings, but I was too late. I couldn't seem to get off. I had to basically survive."

With cornerman Jimmy Williams egging him on, Mitchell finally got his game in gear in the 10th round, but he was still well behind: 98-92 and 98-91 (twice). "My corner let me know I was way behind," Mitchell said. "Six minutes is not much, but I knew if I threw those punches early in the round that I could get him."

That's just what Mitchell, 20-0 (16), did in the fateful 11th round. He caught Liles, 32-2 (19) with 1 no-contest, with a crushing right to put him down. This time, when Liles beat the count, Mitchell didn't hold anything back, and the defending champion was unable to keep him at bay. Twice more Mitchell's deadly right found





When Mitchell got Liles in trouble in the 11th with another booming right to the head (above right), he kept throwing bombs until the defending champion hit the deck three times (right) for an automatic TKO.

its home, and the bout was stopped by referee Gerry Leone on the three-knockdown rule at the 1:17 mark, bringing an end to Liles' long reign.

Now that the WBA belt is his, Mitchell doesn't plan on giving it up anytime soon. With his raw power, the 26-year-old brings a new level of excitement to a division that has been stagnant since the days when Roy Jones and James Toney roamed the 168-pound ranks in the early-1990s.

"It didn't come easy," the new champion said. "I'm not going to let it go easy. I want to do what Roy Jones never did as super middleweight. I want all the belts."

Mitchell learned to box at the Wolfpack Boxing Club, a gym run by Johnny

(Continued on page 63)

THREE BELTS AREN'T ENOUGH!

WHAT THE FANS ARE DEMANDING OF ROY JONES

By Nigel Collins

While it passed with little fanfare in the mainstream media, it's possible that history will judge Roy Jones' unification of the light heavyweight title as his greatest achievement. Unfortunately, the fact that he is currently boxing's *only* undisputed champion says more about the sour state of the Sweet Science than it does Jones' undeniable brilliance. And seeing Jones standing in the center of the ring after beating Reggie Johnson, his magnificent body adorned with the gaudy trinkets symbolic of his achievement, you knew you were looking at boxing royalty, a man who had not only risen above the shameful politics of the game, but one who had done so on his own terms.

It's no secret that the unscrupulous

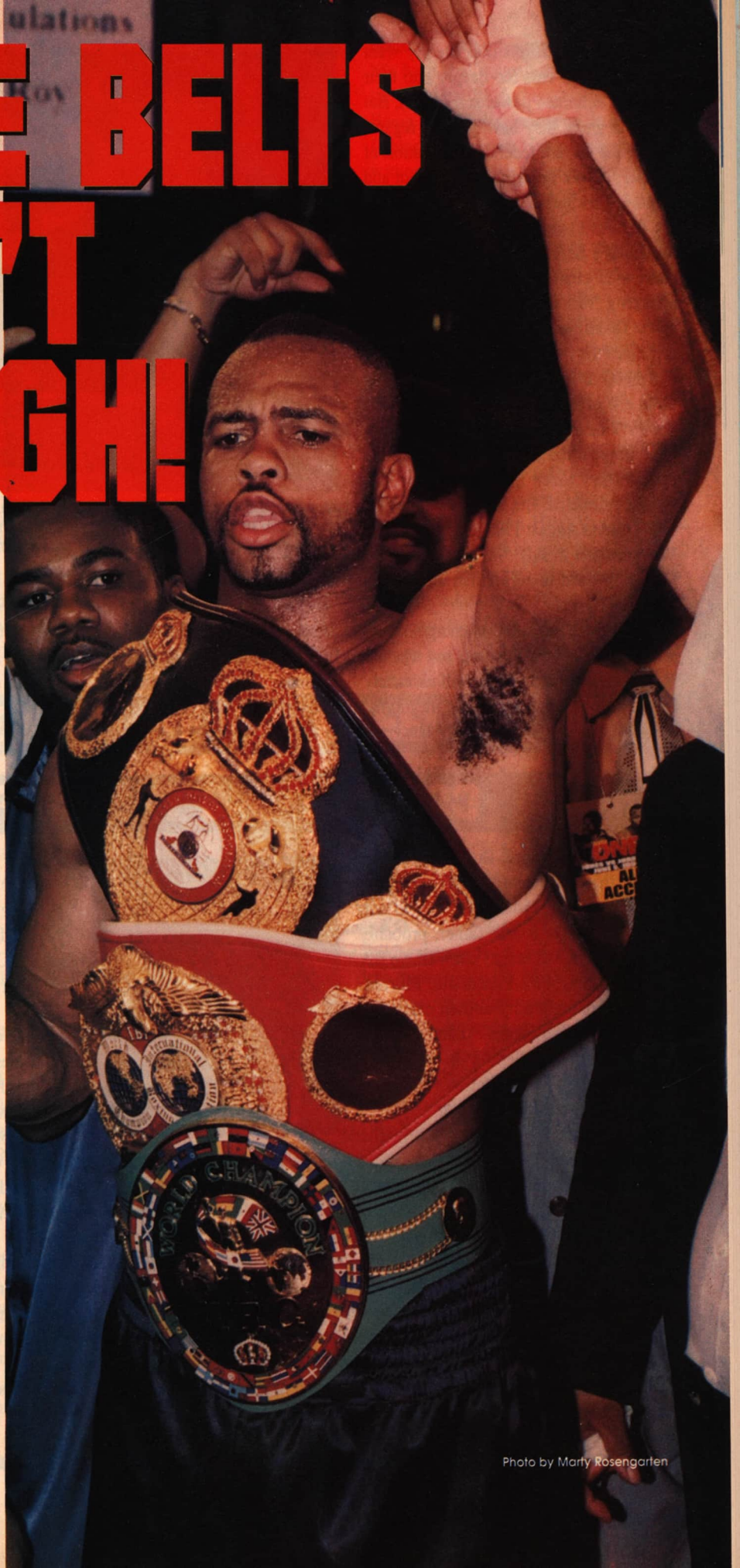


Photo by Marty Rosengarten

alphabet organizations don't really want unified titles; it cuts too deeply into their greed for unlimited power and control. But like crab grass, they have proved, regardless of the current federal investigation of the IBF, almost impossible to root out and destroy. Champions are forced to placate the various governing bodies by making mandatory defenses against hopelessly outclassed challengers, which, generally speaking, has proven disastrous to the sport. Therefore, Jones has been justifiably criticized for fighting such undeserving opponents as Rick Frazier in order to hang on to one of his belts. In fact, HBO Sports Senior Vice President Lou DiBella practically begged him to vacate the WBC title rather than force him to televise the Frazier mismatch. But since regaining the WBC title in August 1997 and winning the WBA version in July '98, Jones has stubbornly refused to relinquish any of the belts.

The payoff for Jones' uncompromising stance came against Johnson, and whether or not he did the right things will ultimately be decided by posterity. In the meantime, it's illuminating to note exactly how rare

Jones' domination of IBF champion Johnson was unequivocal throughout the fight, but after scoring two knockdowns and building an unsurmountable lead on the scorecards, the soon-to-be undisputed light heavyweight champion eased up and coasted home.

undisputed champions have been during the '90s. Jones is only the *fifth* fighter this decade to become an undisputed champion. Buster Douglas upset Mike Tyson in February '90 to claim the heavyweight championship that Tyson had unified back in the '80s. Evander Holyfield became the undisputed champ by knocking out Douglas in October '90, and remained so until November '92, when Riddick Bowe won all three belts. Bowe, in turn, remained the unified champ until later that same year when he chucked the WBC belt into the trash can rather than fight Lennox Lewis.

COMPLETING THE TRIFECTA

Biloxi, Mississippi: Roy Jones always knew this day would come. Reggie Johnson, 171, Houston, Texas, who was once trained by Jones' father, probably wishes he could forget it. WBC/WBA champ Jones, 174, Pensacola, Florida, became boxing's only unified champion by scoring a lopsided 12-round decision over Johnson to garner the IBF version of the title at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum before a near-capacity crowd of 9,944.

Jones blasts Johnson into the ropes

Photo by Marty Rosengarten

"One time we sparred back in the day," said Jones, who was upset with his father for training someone he figured to eventually meet. "I knew I was much quicker than Reggie. You can't teach speed."

Jones, 40-1 (33), dropped southpaw Johnson with a stiff lead right in the first round and again in the third with a rapid fire left hook-straight right combination. Johnson, 39-6-1 (24), appeared to be ready to go when he came out for the fourth, and Jones, 30, turned up the heat in pursuit of a knockout. But when Johnson, 33, refused to fold, Jones backed off and seemed to be content to coast to a decision, a course of action that was greeted in the latter stages of the contest by restless boos from fans who were solidly behind Jones when the fight began.

"I knew it was stupid to take those chances while I was so far ahead," explained Jones, who was awarded the decision by all three USA judges—Jesus Cova, Chuck Hassett, and Paul Sita—by a 120-106 margin.

Jones' dominance was such that Johnson managed to land only 49 punches, according to CompuBox, registering in the single digits in 11 of 12 rounds. He was tagged by 273 of Jones' punches, 210 of which were powershots.

Throughout much of the bout, a nonchalant Jones threw punches with his hands at his waist, circled right against his southpaw opponent, and pulled away from oncoming punches with consummate ease.

"Ali did a lot of things wrong, but his ring generalship and his ring smarts overcame all of his mistakes," noted Johnson. "Roy has that same thing."

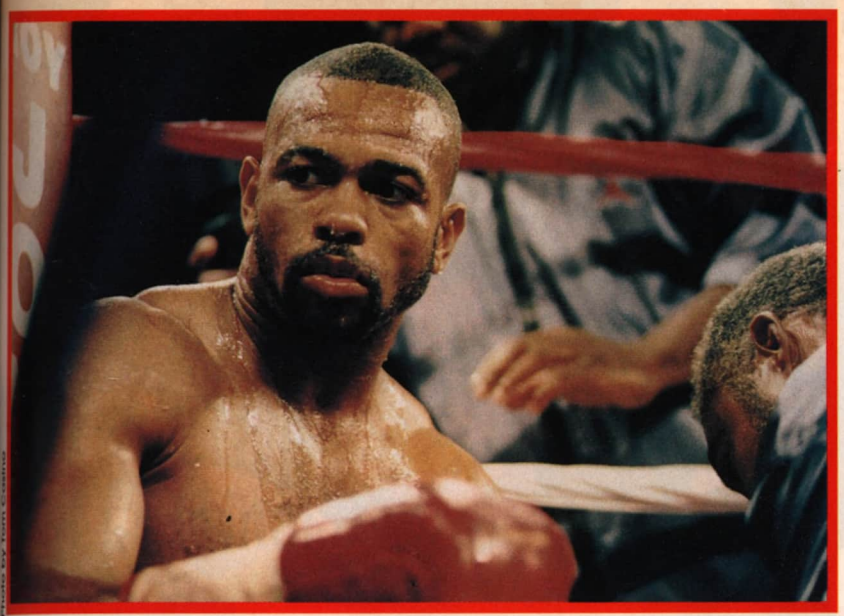
The referee was Elmo Adolph (USA).

Television: HBO

Promoter: M&M Sports, Cedric Kushner Promotions

(6-5-99)

—Johnnie Whitehead



A seemingly unconcerned Jones scans the crowd between rounds during the Johnson fight. It will take a greater challenge than the one Johnson offered to bring out the best in Jones.

the organization's mandatory challenger. The fifth was Pernell Whitaker, who unified the lightweight title in August '90 by knocking out Juan Nazario, but by '92, "Sweet Pea" had moved up to the 140-pound division, and the 135-pound title splintered again and remains so.

One of the indirect results of the proliferation of split titles over the past 25 years has been that instead of the title making the fighter, the fighter makes the title. Being a champion means so little today, a fighter like Naseem Hamed, who has been without one of the three main organizations' recognition for most of his career, can still make millions of dollars. In fact, whenever the WBO tries to make a case for itself, it invariably points to the quality of some of its champions—Hamed, Dariusz Michalczewski, Marco Antonio Barrera—as justification for its existence.

True, a title belt from *any* organization helps lesser fighters make a buck, but it has been a long time since Jones needed the alphabet belts for anything other than personal gratification. DiBella promised him, prior to the Frazier fight, that Jones' financial deal with HBO would not be affected one iota if he gave up all the belts. It was Roy Jones the *fighter* (and by extension, broadcaster) that was important to HBO, not Roy Jones the *champion*, regard-

(Continued on page 55)

THE LAST OF THE BREED

In case you're wondering just how rare unified titles are these days, THE RING has compiled the following list of the most recent undisputed champions in each weight class, along with the date and other particulars involved in their achievements.

HEAVYWEIGHT: Riddick Bowe W 12 Evander Holyfield, November 13, 1992

CRUISERWEIGHT: Evander Holyfield KO 8 Carlos DeLeon, April 9, 1988

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: Roy Jones W 12 Reggie Johnson, June 5, 1999

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT: Chong Pal Park KO 11 Murray Sutherland, July 22, 1984 *(The IBF invented the super middle class, and Park was its second champ, but in December of '87, the WBA got into the act, and the title has been split ever since.)*

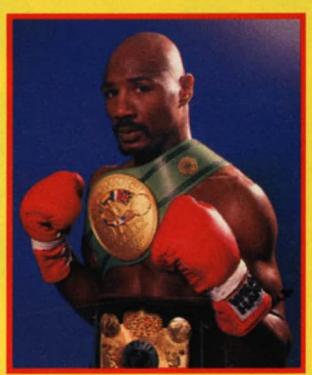
MIDDLEWEIGHT: Marvelous Marvin Hagler KO 3 Alan Minter, March 16, 1980

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT: Koichi Wajima W 15 Oscar Albarado, January 21, 1975

WELTERWEIGHT: Lloyd Honeyghan KO 7 Donald Curry, September 27, 1986

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT: Nicolino Locche KO 10 Paul Fuji, December 12, 1968

LIGHTWEIGHT: Pernell Whitaker KO 1 Juan Nazario, August 11, 1990



Hagler: The last undisputed middleweight champ

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT: Hiroshi Kobayashi KO 12 Yoshiaki Numata, December 14, 1967

FEATHERWEIGHT: Vicente Saldivar KO 12 Sugar Ramos, September 26, 1964

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHT: Wilfredo Gomez KO 12 Dong Kyun Yum, May 21, 1977 *(The WBC exhumed the 122-pound class, which had been buried since the 1920s, in '76. Gomez was in possession of that title in November '77, when the WBA also embraced the 122-pounders, and the title has never been unified since then.)*

BANTAMWEIGHT: Romero Anaya KO 3 Enrique Pinder, January 20, 1973

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHT: Chul Ho Kim KO 9 Rafael Orono, January 24, 1981 *(The WBC created this bastard division in '80, and it has remained divided since the WBA followed suit in September '81.)*

FLYWEIGHT: Salvatore Burruni W 15 Pone Kingpetch, April 23, 1965

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHT: Franco Udella W Disq. 12 Valentin Martinez, April 4, 1975 *(The title split when the WBA came up with its own 108-pound class four months later, and remains so.)*

STRAWWEIGHT: Kyung Yun Lee KO 2 Masaharu Kawakami, June 14, 1987 *(The IBF beat everybody to the punch with the 105-pound division, but four months later, the WBC added it to its roster, and the title has remained split since.)*

By Robert Mladinich

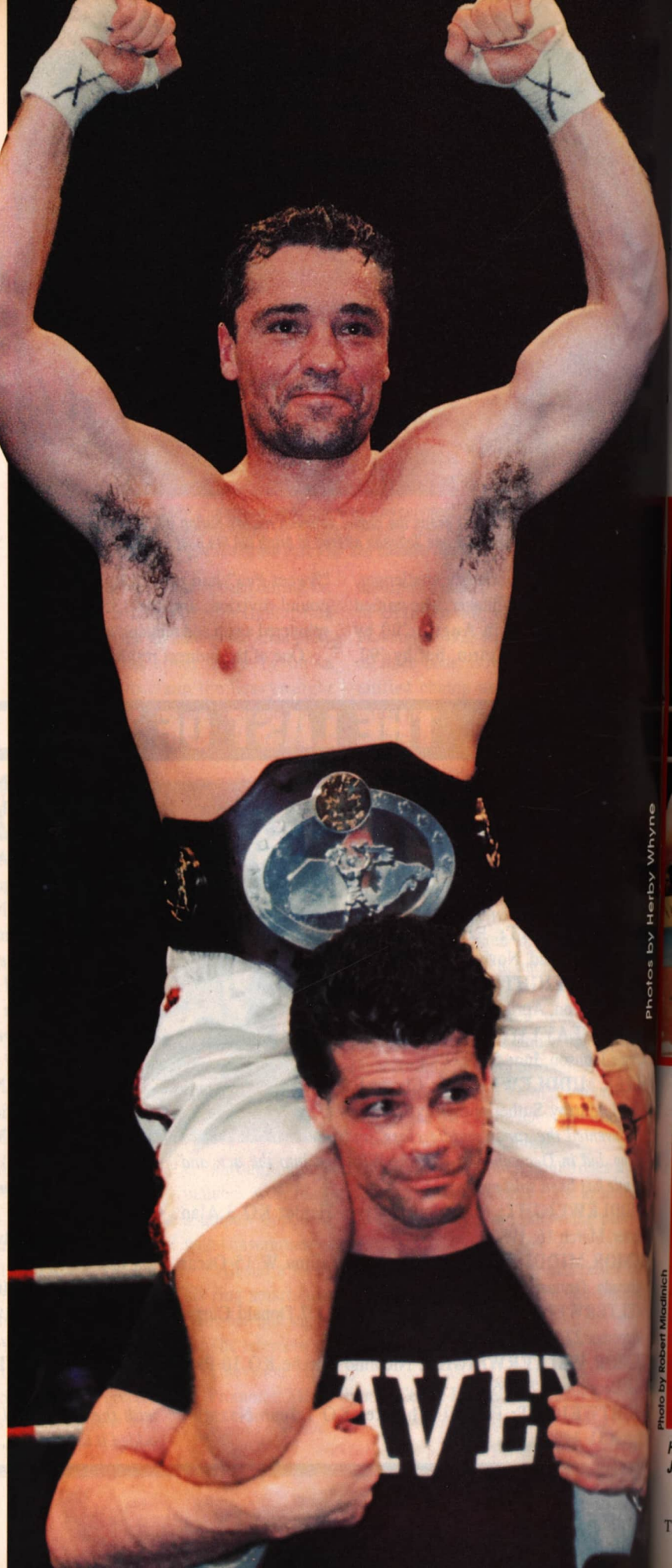
Davey Hilton Jr. is the first to admit he has foolishly squandered more than his share of good fortune over the years, but at age 35, he is smart enough to know that his time is running out. Nobody has to remind the native of Montreal, Quebec, that, as far as his boxing career is concerned, this is his last chance.

On May 28, he mesmerized a hometown crowd of more than 20,000 at the Molson Centre by scoring a brutal, two-fisted, third-round knockout of his popular crosstown rival Stephane Ouellet. Not only did Hilton avenge the two TKO victories Ouellet had scored over his brother Alex, he also offered ample proof that his Rockyesque, 12th-round, come-from-behind stoppage of Ouellet last November was no fluke. In that bout, Hilton produced a miracle with only 18 seconds left in the bout to win the Canadian middleweight title. The thrilling victories put the junior middleweight and middleweight divisions on notice that Hilton is back in the title picture and as dangerous as ever. Although the pair of victories sent his troubled family's fistic fortunes soaring, a nasty legal problem prevented him from reveling for long in the renaissance of his rejuvenated career.

Just five weeks prior to the destruction of Ouellet, Hilton was arraigned on an array of criminal charges in Montreal and released on bail. He was accused of felonious sexual assault, sexual touching, and sexual interference of two underage girls between 1995 and January '99.

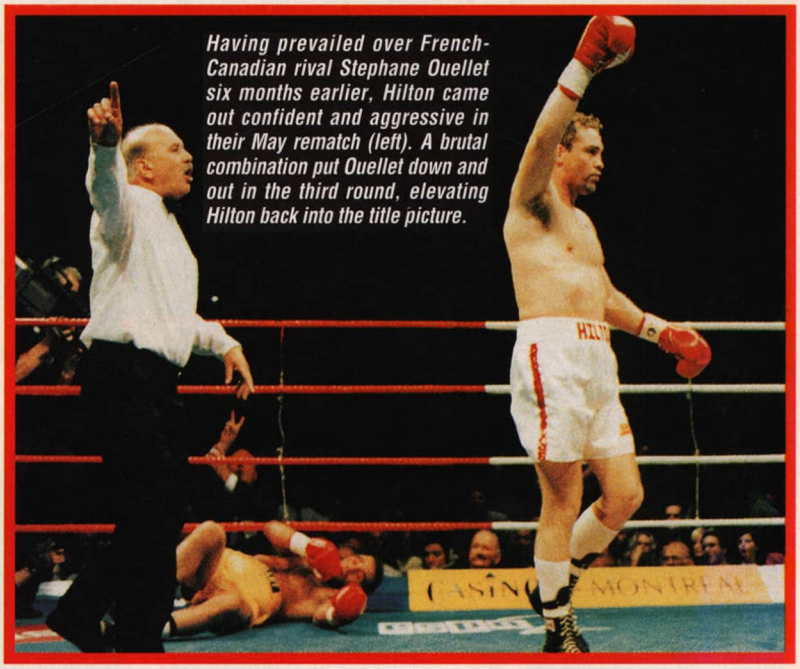
Adding to Hilton's woes is the fact that he is facing similar charges in Florida, where he previously lived and trained. A spokesman for the Sunny Isles Police Department in northern Miami said Hilton would be immediately arrested if he set foot in the state, or extradited from anywhere in the United States. If convicted of the Canadian charges alone, he could be sentenced to 10 years in prison.

To make matters worse, Hilton is embroiled in a vicious divorce battle with his wife of 18 years, Ann Marie, the sister of former IBF junior lightweight champion Arturo Gatti and junior middleweight contender Joe Gatti. Hilton is forbidden



THE TROUBLES & TRIUMPHS OF DAVEY HILTON

Will Criminal Charges Kayo Canadian's Comeback?



Having prevailed over French-Canadian rival Stephane Ouellet six months earlier, Hilton came out confident and aggressive in their May rematch (left). A brutal combination put Ouellet down and out in the third round, elevating Hilton back into the title picture.

Photos by Heidy Wiyne

Hilton and his family during happier days. From left to right: daughter Ann Marie, sons Davey and Jackie (being held by their dad), wife Ann Marie, and daughter Jean.

from having contact with her or their four children: Jean, 16, Ann Marie, 14, Davey, 7, and Jackie, 6.

From a strictly pugilistic standpoint, these troubles could not have come at a more inopportune time. His thrilling victories over Ouellet were both financial and artistic masterpieces. The knockout in the first bout could not have been better scripted by a Hollywood screenwriter. And in the rematch, which saw him raise his record to 37-1-3 (26), Hilton's newly sculpted physique and crippling power showed that he is a most commanding ring presence, even though he is at a relatively advanced age and in his 18th year as a professional fighter. While he could conceiv-

(Continued on page 55)

From Pig Farmers To Promoters

HALL OF FAME

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Publicist Irving Rudd and former heavyweight and light heavyweight contender Jimmy Bivins were among the six inductees on hand for the 1999 International Boxing Hall of Fame Weekend.

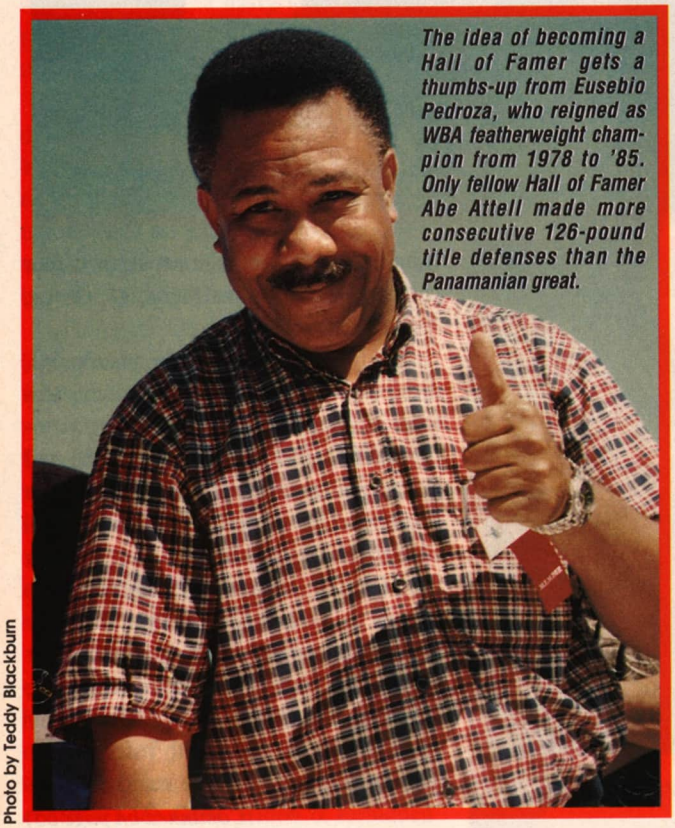


Photo by Teddy Blackburn

The idea of becoming a Hall of Famer gets a thumbs-up from Eusebio Pedroza, who reigned as WBA featherweight champion from 1978 to '85. Only fellow Hall of Famer Abe Attell made more consecutive 126-pound title defenses than the Panamanian great.

It took Khaosai Galaxy three days to get from Thailand to Canastota for the festivities, but it was well worth it for the former 115-pound champion. Galaxy became the first Thai fighter to be in enshrined in the IBHOF.

By Ed Maloney

The sun shined brightly on Induction Day 1999 in Canastota, New York. But it left a brighter glow on the six living inductees, who, despite the presence of Oscar De La Hoya, were the center of attention at the annual ceremony at the International Boxing Hall of Fame. It's only fitting, because as great as these new Hall of Famers are, they seldom, if ever, received proper acclaim for their immense contributions to ring lore. As in other years, every inductee who was physically able to attend made the journey to the little village in upstate New York.

WELCOMES THE CLASS OF '99

New inductee Bob Arum wasn't too pleased when rival promoter Don King was inducted back in '97, and he said after hearing that he'd been voted in that he didn't consider himself deserving of the honor either. Arum's tune changed a bit when he saw firsthand what a classy celebration the IBHOF put together.

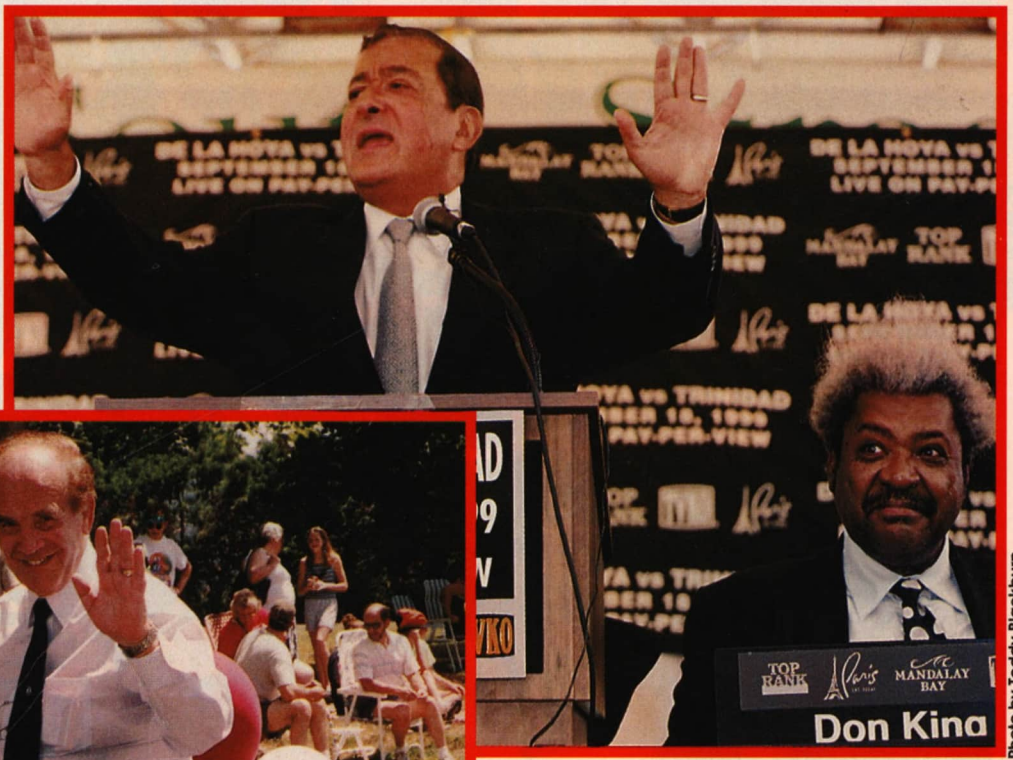


Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Englishman Mickey Duff, whose 50-year boxing career included roles as a promoter, manager, matchmaker, cornerman, and fighter, enjoys the procession through the streets of Canastota. Duff handled 16 world champions over the course of his Hall of Fame career.

This year's four-day festival was particularly special for several reasons. 1) The museum, which opened in 1989, was celebrating its 10th anniversary. 2) This year's class was truly international, as inductees from Asia, South America, and Europe joined their North American counterparts to receive their laurels. 3) Some had to travel long and hard to get here, a few were nearing the end of life's journey, while another had to endure trials and tribulations on a path that we should all hope to avoid.

Those members of the Class of '99 on hand included Bob Arum, Jimmy Bivins, Mickey Duff, Khaosai Galaxy, Eusebio Pedroza, and Irving Rudd. Other inductees were Lew Jenkins and Vicente Saldivar in the Modern Group; Johnny Coulon, Sam McVey, Lew Tendler, and Freddie Steele in the Old-Timers Group; Bill Richmond in the Pioneer Group; and Giuseppe Ballarati, Murray Goodman, Jimmy Johnson, and Tom O'Rourke in the Non-Participants Group.

It took former WBA junior bantamweight champ Khaosai Galaxy three days to get from Thailand to Canastota. There were several plane transfers before his contingent decided to drive the last 200 miles. Galaxy, who holds the division record for defenses with 19, and length of title reign at seven years, one month, arrived at the Hall of Fame the night before the four-day festival began.

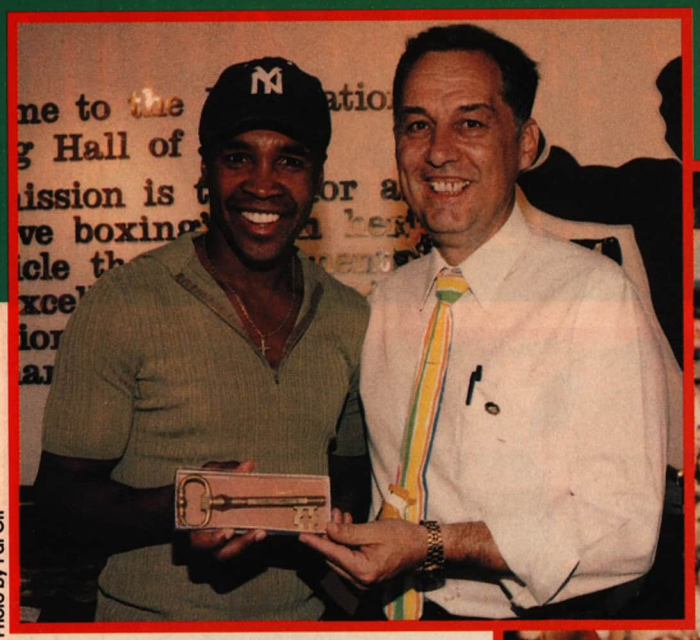


Photo by Pat Orr

The perfect gift for a guy who has everything: Ray Leonard, inducted in 1997, receives the key to Canastota from the village mayor, Mark Lavonis .

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Hall of Fame Weekend isn't only for the inductees. WBC welter champ Oscar De La Hoya was one of the many top active fighters drawing autograph-seekers in Canastota this past June.

Three future Hall of Famers in a row? Only time will tell whether or not special guests Floyd Mayweather, Angel Manfredy, and Shane Mosley will return one day as inductees.

"They got to town just before midnight and came straight to the museum," said Ed Brophy, the Hall's executive director. "I gave them a brief tour, then let them walk around on their own."

Galaxy, the first Thai to be enshrined, took particular interest in another Asian fighter's trunks and robe that were on display. Fighting Harada, a two-division champ from Japan who was inducted in 1996, is the only other living inductee from Asia.

Galaxy surprised Brophy by presenting the museum with his own trunks and autographed gloves. "This is a very important honor for me," said Galaxy, whose real name is Sura Saenkham. "Not only am I awed by the fact that my accomplishments are now acknowledged throughout the world, but it offers prestige to my family forever."

Although it's been nearly eight years since he retired, the man once known as the "Thai Tyson" remains a national hero. He's recorded hit songs, acted on several television shows, and owns a snooker hall and a plantation. He's enjoying retirement and resisted the one and only urge he ever had to make a comeback.

"I was a bit frustrated at my lack of success in 1993," said Galaxy, who retired in 1991 with a 49-1 (43) record. "I wanted to make a comeback, but my advisers strongly urged against it. Although I'm certain I could have become a champion again, I didn't want to return without their support."

Today, Galaxy weighs nearly 150 pounds, and although he looks fit, he laughed when asked if he could ever return to his fighting weight.

Former WBA featherweight champ Eusebio Pedroza, 46, is

(Continued on page 57)

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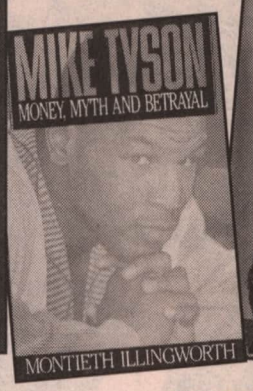

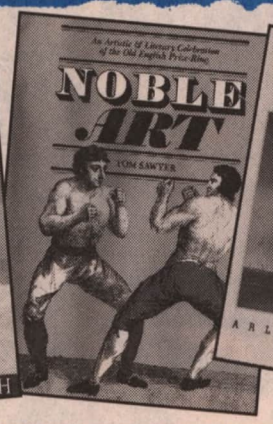

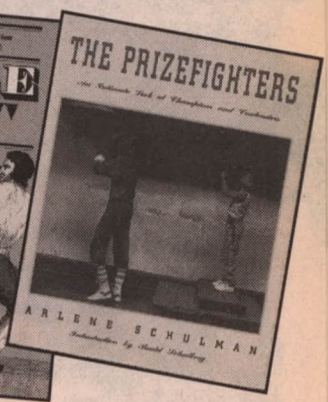

THE BOXING REGISTER by James Roberts and Alexander Skutt. The official record book of the International Boxing Hall of Fame, this title is packed with ring records and well-researched bios on all of the Hall of Fame inductees. Includes more than 250 photos. 448 pages.
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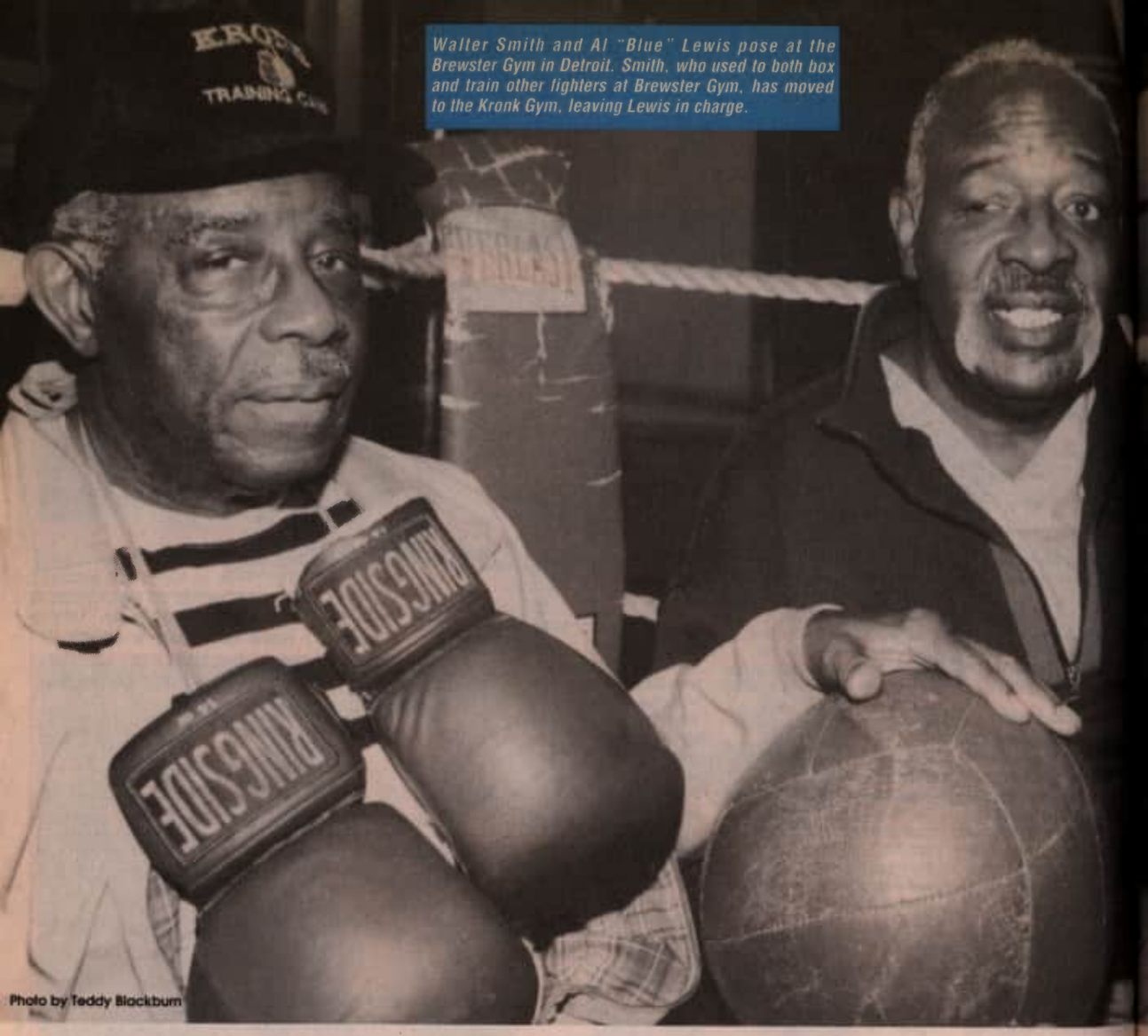


Walter Smith and Al "Blue" Lewis pose at the Brewster Gym in Detroit. Smith, who used to both box and train other fighters at Brewster Gym, has moved to the Kronk Gym, leaving Lewis in charge.

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Smith stands in front of the Brewster Gym mural that depicts some of the famous fighters who have trained there. Even Ray Robinson used to visit when he was a kid living in the projects across the street.

THE BREWSTER REC CENTER TURNS 70

Blue Lewis Honors The Joe Louis Legacy

By Robert Cassidy

When Emanuel Steward began building the dynasty that would become the Kronk Boxing Team, he deliberately surrounded himself with the wise old boxing men of Detroit. The common denominator of each man was that he could trace his fistic roots back to the Brewster Recreation Center, which was the boxing capital of Detroit long before the red and gold of the Kronk became the Motor City's symbol of boxing success.

"Almost all of us have a connection to Brewster," said Steward. "Most of my assistants, Walter Smith, Luther Burgess, Floyd Logan, Sammy Poe, have come out of there. We're like family. I've known Walter Smith my whole life. We're all from the same area of Detroit, and the Brewster Center was the main gathering place."

The Brewster Recreation Center opened in 1929 and is still located at the intersection of Hastings and Brewster Streets in the middle of the Brewster Housing projects. The area Steward speaks of is known as the Black Bottom section of Detroit. The name originated in the early-1930s when the city was virtually void of African-Americans. The auto workers strike of that era was responsible for attracting African-Americans to the area.

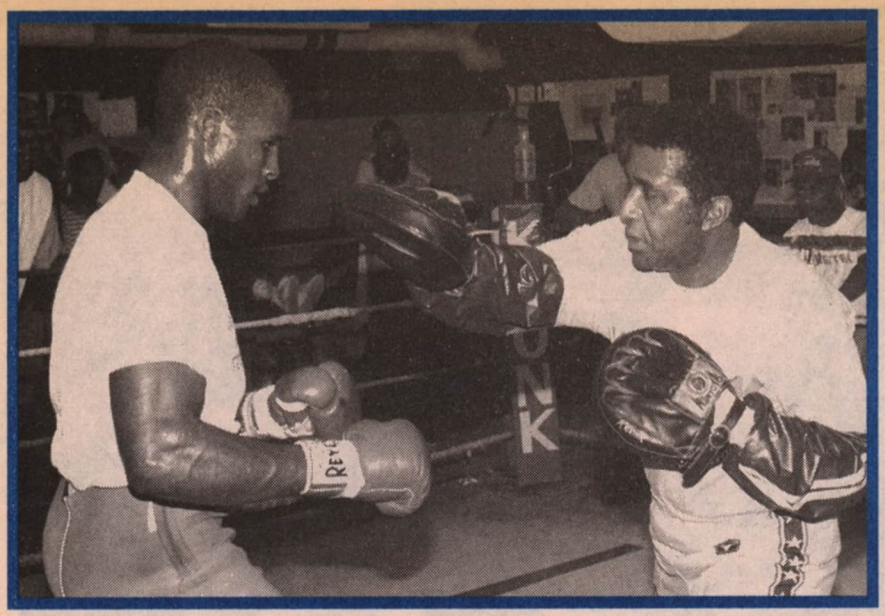
"The auto plants were looking for strike-breakers, and black people heard that if they could make it up to Detroit, they'd find work, making something like $5 a week," said Steward. "The main area was the East Side; they called it the Black Bottom section of Detroit. That's where all the blacks lived. The Brewster Center was all that blacks had in Detroit back then. It was your whole life."

In the basement of the Brewster Center is a small boxing gym that has produced some giants in the sport. Joe Louis, Eddie Futch, and Steward, each enshrined in the International Boxing Hall of Fame, graduated from Brewster. And, although it is unclear if he did any real training there, it was the very first boxing gym that Sugar Ray Robinson entered. The projects produced a few other heavyweights as well, namely Smokey Robinson and Diana Ross and the Supremes. In fact, Berry Gordy, founder of Motown Records, boxed at Brewster.

While the gym is still operating, its glorious past is kept alive only by the men who once trained there. Steward, whose Kronk Gym virtually wiped out Brewster, uses this story to illustrate that the Brewster tradition is still alive in boxing.

"I don't think anyone realized this at the time, but look at the corners for the second Riddick Bowe-Evander Holyfield fight," he said. "Eddie Futch was Bowe's head trainer and his chief assistant was Hedgemon Lewis. I was Holyfield's head trainer and Luther Burgess was my chief assistant. All four of us came out of the Brewster Center. And Eddie also trained both Hedgemon and Luther."

Walter Smith, now 85, boxed at Brewster from 1930 to '36. Today, he is



Emanuel Steward puts Michael Moorer through his paces at the famous Kronk Gym. Like the Brewster Gym, where Steward got his start, the Kronk is in the basement of a city recreation center.

one of Steward's assistant trainers and one of the few men left from the start of the Brewster dynasty.

"I'm the only link between Joe Louis and Thomas Hearns," he said.

Walter and his brother Clarence Smith, a former AAU champion, began boxing at the Franklin Settlement Recreation Center, but moved to Brewster in '31 because the gym had newer equipment. He was 16 at the time and was awed by the busy surroundings.

"There were about 40 or 50 kids training at Brewster," said Smith. "It was full every night. It had two bags, one speedbag, and one ring. I learned how to box without a ring because we didn't have a ring at Franklin Settlement. When we went to Brewster, it was like Madison Square Garden."

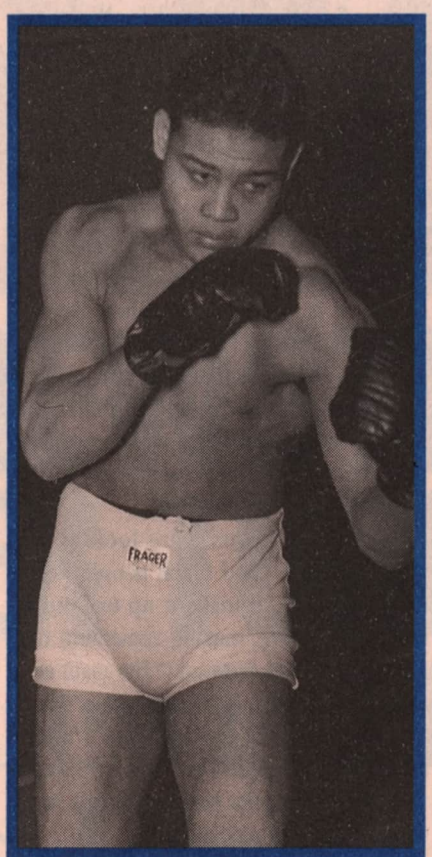
The center was run by Leon Wheeler, the first African-American Recreation Director in the city of Detroit (it is now known as the Brewster-Wheeler Center). Atler Ellis, a former pro fighter from Philadelphia, ran the boxing program. Ellis worked with all the fighters and was responsible for convincing Holman Williams, himself a talented young pro, to spend time tutoring Joe Louis. In his autobiography, *My Life: Joe Louis*, Louis wrote that, "Holman Williams encouraged me a lot. I respected him. He was a beautiful boxer. He told me I had the stuff to be a champion, and I knew he was serious."

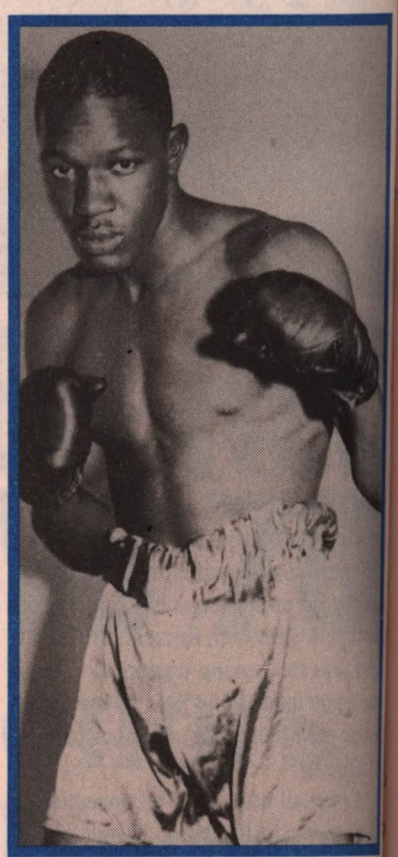
Williams was ranked in the top 10 as a welterweight or middleweight from 1937 to '45. Although he never received a title fight, he was ranked number one in the middleweight division for two consecutive years, 1944-'45. Other notable fighters included Burgess, who died two years ago. As a featherweight, he went 10 rounds with Willie Pep in '48. One of Futch's first pro fighters at Brewster was welterweight Lester Felton, who was ranked fifth in the world in 1949 and holds a 10-round win over Carmen Basilio.

"Brewster Gym was the best in Detroit," said Smith. "At one time, in the Golden Gloves, we had 17 guys in the welterweight division, and that was my division. We won all the team titles from 1932 through the 1940s."

Futch began attending Brewster as a basketball player. He was a waiter working double shifts at the Wolverine Hotel and would spend his dinner break at the center.

"Every day I'd shoot some baskets and do some exercises," said Futch. "Then I started punching the speedbag during my workouts. I had a friend, Ken Offet, who was a good featherweight fighter. He taught me how to box, and then later I ended up training him. At that time, Joe Louis was in the gym, but he only had two or three amateur fights. He was just another fighter in the gym. Holman Williams was the best fighter in the gym. It was a pleasure to watch him work. I would rather watch Holman Williams shadowbox than





Heavyweight great Joe Louis (left) got his start at the Brewster Gym, where he was trained by Holman Williams (right), another outstanding fighter of the era. "The Brown Bomber" developed his lightning hand speed boxing lighter men at the Brewster Gym.

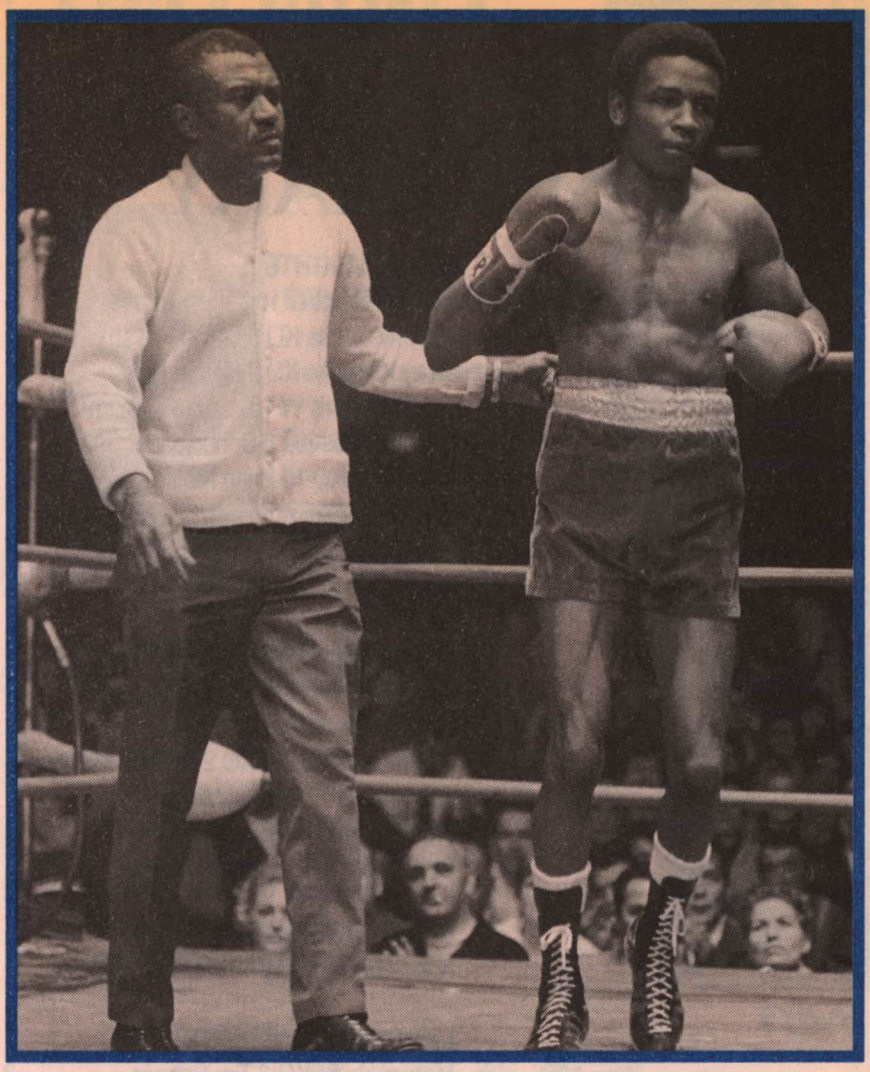
watch other guys box. I knew what I was watching was correct. There wasn't anything he couldn't do in the ring."

Futch competed as a lightweight and won Detroit Golden Gloves titles in '34 and '35. Before he could embark on a pro career, it was discovered that he had an irregular heartbeat, and doctors advised him to give up boxing. He quit fighting, but not the sport. He began training the fighters at Brewster and remembers a young troublemaker named Walker Smith.

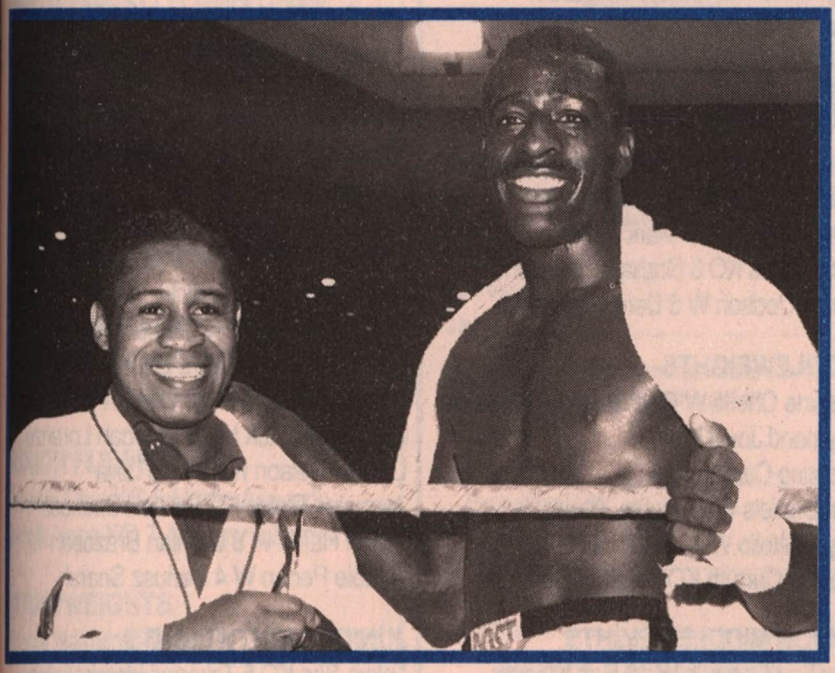
"Sugar Ray Robinson, whose name was Walker Smith then, would come to the gym," recalled Futch. "Robinson was always a wise guy. Sometimes he'd watch the big guys box and make wisecracks. Even at 12 years old, he had a sharp tongue. I used to chase him out of the gym. He lived right across the street from the gym, but I don't know if he ever boxed in Detroit. Then he moved to New York and became a sensation. I'm sure he picked up on some of the things he saw Joe Louis doing at Brewster. We still like to claim Sugar Ray Robinson from the Brewster Club because that's the first gym he went to."

The gym's star, though, would be Louis. Walter Smith said that each day Louis would knock on the door of his home, and he, his brother Clarence, and Louis would walk to the gym together.

"Usually, guys who were the same age boxed together," said Smith. "We didn't always go by weight. I was five months older than Joe Louis, so we boxed even though I weighed 147 and he weighed about 167. When you run around with a group of guys, you all box together. He boxed almost all small guys. That's why he had such quick hands. He'd spar with guys as small as 127 pounds."



Brewster alumni Eddie Futch and Hedgemon Lewis in 1969, three years before Lewis won the New York State version of the welterweight title by outpointing Billy Backus.



Trainer Luther Burgess and Blue Lewis, both products of the Brewster Gym, enjoy the moment following one of Lewis' early-career victories. Lewis later lost to Muhammad Ali via 11th-round TKO.

What Smith remembers most about the legendary heavyweight champion was his dedication and focus.

"You could tell even then that he had the makings of a champion," said Smith. "Every move he made was perfect, and he could always punch—even at 17 years old. He never made a move in the ring unless he knew what he was doing. He never wasted energy. Everything he did had a purpose. He was down to business all the time. Joe Louis was always serious."

(Continued on page 64)

SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS

Michael Grant W 10 Lou Savarese
Andrew Golota KO 6 Quinn Navarre
Vitaly Klitschko KO 2 Herbie Hide
Maurice Harris W 10 Jeremy Williams
Larry Holmes KO 8 Bonecrusher Smith
Dick Ryan KO 10 Brian Nielsen
Corrie Sanders KO 1 Jorge Valdes
Alexander Zolkin KO 1 Rocky Phillips
Julius Francis W 12 Scott Welch
Orlin Norris KO 1 Pele Reid
Frankie Swindell KO 5 Darroll Wilson
Greg Page KO 7 Tim Witherspoon
Bert Cooper KO 4 Brian Yates
Przemyslaw Saleta KO 2 Rodolfo Marin
Joe Hipp W 12 Everett Martin
Trevor Berbick W 8 Iran Barkley
Butterbean KO 1 Peter McNeeley

CRUISERWEIGHTS

Napoleon Tagoe W 10 Ramon Garbey

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Montell Griffin KO 3 Tim Cooper
Glen Kelly W 12 Anthony Bigeni
Billy Lewis KO 1 Andre Haddock
Rodney Moore KO 2 Jeff Kennedy
Elvir Muriqi KO 4 Thomas Barker

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Vinny Pazienza W 10 Esteban Cervantes
Markus Beyer W 12 Juan Viloria
David Starie W 12 Mark Baker
Soon Botes KO 6 Graham Townsend
Adrian Dodson W 6 Derek Wormald

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Hassine Cherifi W Disq. 6 Jorge Sclarandi
Raymond Joval KO 9
Agostino Cardamone
Carl Daniels W 10 Bobby Heath
Billy Costello W 10 Juan LaPorte
Michael Carruth KO 1 Zoltan Szili

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Yory Boy Campas W 10 Ron Weaver
Tony Marshall W 8 Rob Bleakley
Sam Garr KO 10 Luis Santana
Hector Camacho W 10 P.J. Goossen
Jose Rivera KO 5 Kip Diggs
Paul Vaden KO 6 Jorge Luis Vado
Kevin Kelly KO 4 Kulianisi Vasu
Dwain Williams KO 8 Fidel Avendano
Tony Badea KO 6 Manny Sobral
Robert Frazier D 10 Andrew Murray
Robert West KO 5 Tom Younan
Carlos Rubio W 10 Oscar Gonzalez
Anthony Fields KO 9 Curtis Summit
Hercules Kyvelos W 8 Gilberto Flores
Cleveland Corder W 6 Rudy Lovato

WELTERWEIGHTS

Vernon Forrest KO 4 Ed Goins
Diobelys Hurtado W 10 Lonnie Smith
Thomas Damgaard KO 4
Francisco Alvarez
Phillip Holiday KO 5 Shawn Simmons
Carlos Baldomir KO 10 Frank Olsen
Henry Hughes W 10 Greg Haugen
John Molnar KO 1 Claude Staten

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

Zab Judah KO 1 David Sample
Shea Neary KO 4 Mike Griffith
Hector Camacho Jr. KO 9
Miguel Angel Ruiz
Julian Wheeler W 12 Victor McKinnis
Tony Pep KO 6 Francisco Castillo
Hiroyuki Sakamoto KO 7 Wonso Ku
Henry Bruseles KO 4 Juan Giron
Luis Perez KO 7 Rosemberg Palacios
Lawrence Ngobeni KO 6 Frank Benoni

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Steve Johnston W 12 Aldo Rios
(Retains WBA Title)
Angel Manfredy KO 7 Luis Ruiz Lizarraga
Diego Corrales KO 4 Angel Aldama
Goyo Vargas W 12 Ricky Quiles
Harold Warren W 12 David Tetteh
Pablo Sarmiento W 12 Eduardo Morales
Alberto Sicurella KO 3 Daniel Frietas
Jongkwon Baek KO 6 Esteban Lorenzo
Lemuel Nelson KO 5 Luis Leija
Jermaine Fields KO 8 Khalil Shakeel
Vivian Harris W 8 Damian Brazoban
Robbie Peden W 4 Dariusz Snarsk

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

Lakva Sim KO 5 Takanori Hatakeyama
(Wins WBA Title)

Yong Soo Choi KO 4 Ariel Neri
Joel Casamayor W 12
Antonio Hernandez
Koji Arisawa KO 7 Panther Yanagida
David Santos KO 4 Ernest Koffi
Daniel Alicea W 10 Joseph Figueroa
Dennis Holbaek W 12 Kirkor Kirkorian
In Jin Chi KO 5 Siengthipya Sitsyasei

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Guty Espadas KO 4 Rodrigo Lopez
Cassius Baloyi KO 9 Brian Carr
Phillip Ndou KO 4 Rakheem Mingaleev
Pable Chacon W 10 Juan Cabrera

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
Enrique Sanchez KO 3
Melquiades Ventura
Willie Jorrin W 12 Aristead Clayton
Johnny Bredahl KO 2 Len Martinez
Johnny Armour KO 5 Mohamed Ouzid
Mauricio Martinez KO 8 Cruz Acosta
Frankie Archuleta KO 3 Ivan Salazar
Emmanuel Lucero W 4 John Seme

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Paulie Ayala W 12 Johnny Tapia
(Wins WBA Title)
Noel Wilders KO 6 Adey Lewis
Jesper Jensen W 8 Osvaldo Cedeno Gil

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS
Diego Morales KO 11 Victor Godoy
Eric Morel KO 4 Lorenzo Trejo
Panieng Poontarat W 10 Takuya Kiya
Kazuhiro Ryukoh KO 4
Yoshiaki Matsukura

FLYWEIGHTS
Jose Antonio Lopez Bueno KO 7
Igor Gerasimov
Oscar Arciniega Tech. Win 9
Miguel Angel Granados
Celes Kobayashi KO 9 Shin Terao

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Yeosam Choi KO 5 Martin Acevedo
Sangik Yang KO 7 Anthony Villamor

STRAWWEIGHTS
Hiroshi Nakajima W 12
Carmelo Caceres
Nekato Suzuki W 10 Itsuo Oka

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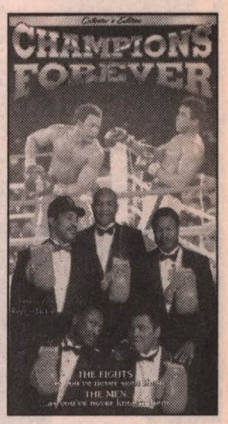

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RINGSIDE REPORTS

FIGHTER *of the* MONTH

With all due respect to Roy Jones, the top runner-up for this month's distinction, the undisputed light heavy champ merely did what was expected of him by thrashing Reggie Johnson over 12 rounds. Ayala, on the other hand, did much more than anyone expected, coming through with the fight of his life to ruin the undefeated record of a possible Hall of Famer. Ayala's close but unanimous decision win over Johnny Tapia on June 26 was the best fight of the first half of this year, a scintillating performance that exponentially elevated the star of the southpaw from Fort Worth, Texas.

Ayala displayed pure class before, during, and after the fight. While ring announcer Jimmy Lennon Jr. was introducing Ayala, defending WBA bantam champ Tapia senselessly shoved the challenger. Ayala's response was to shrug it off and not retaliate. But all through the fight, Ayala retaliated feverishly, matching every combination Tapia could offer and often outboxing one of the sport's slickest practitioners. And afterward, Ayala had nothing but kind words for his opponent, and both men lifted each other in a show of mutual respect. But after 12 back-and-forth rounds, it was Ayala who took home the title—and THE RING's Fighter of the Month honor.

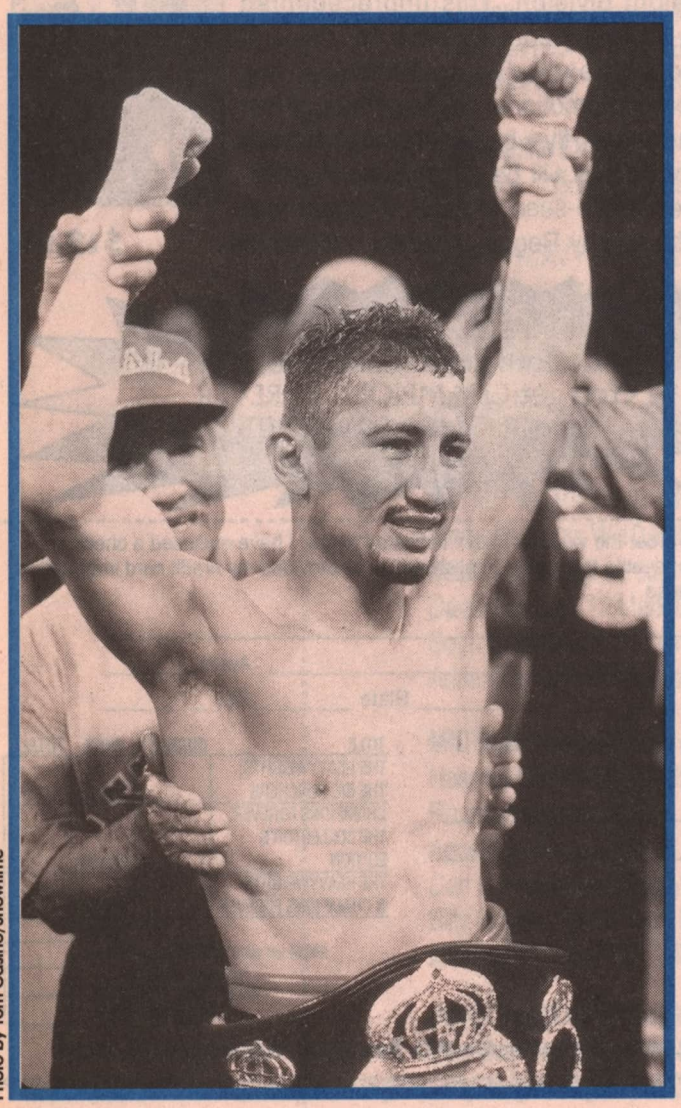


Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime

Paulie Ayala

Johnston fires a southpaw jab at elusive Rios

Stevie Johnston W 12 Aldo Rios

Las Vegas, Nevada: Johnston, a frustrated 8-1 favorite, might have felt like he got a couple of kisses from Lady Luck as he retained the WBC lightweight crown against Rios on a unanimous decision despite a mediocre effort. Johnston, 135, Denver, Colorado, was an embarrassing study in taking money under false pretenses, considering his purse was $125,000. Rios, 134½, the WBC's number-six contender from Argentina, earned $7,500. The 5,005 spectators at Mandalay Bay's Events Center let loose catcalls of disgust after every round over Johnston's inability to cut off the ring against the ever-retreating Rios, whose intent seemed to be merely to last the distance in his first U.S. outing.

Johnston, 26, improved his credentials to 27-1 (14), but there was never a juncture when he resembled the thinking, punching craftsman who regained the title with a classy unanimous decision over Mexico's Cesar Bazan this past February. Rios, 25, only punched in flurries and with less power than Johnston. The speedy Rios, 20-1 (4), did his best work early by nullifying the champion in clinches. The Argentinian was still in the chase through eight boring rounds, but Johnston picked it up at the end, and Rios didn't have the power to get the knockout he would need to win.

In the judges' official scoring, Jose Juan Guerra (Mexico) had it 117-112, Kurt Stroer (Germany) voted 118-110, and Chuck Giampa (USA) saw it 116-112, all for Johnston. THE RING's tab was 117-113 for Johnston.

Whatever fight plan Johnston had for this first defense, he must have left it in the Colorado mountains.

"Sure, it was a bad night, but I didn't think Rios would run like he did in this chance to win the title," Johnston said. "I never trained for that kind of fight. From some of the tapes we had, I expected the guy would be the aggressor. I was agitated from the start. Every time I tried to move in to punch, he'd duck and grab me. What Rios did best was clinch. That kind of action really threw me off my game plan."

There were times when Johnston was actually lunging in desperation to land with power. The challenger often aggravated Johnston by moving from left to right and reversing his field before catching Johnston with a short right to the head. Such sequences occurred in the fifth, seventh, and eighth rounds, and Johnston's pained expression wasn't from Rios' punches nor from a cut he received on the left eyebrow in the seventh round; it was simply frustration.

Though lackluster throughout, Johnston's never-ending pressure, coupled with sporadic accuracy, was enough to sway the judges from the middle rounds on. Rios, though unmarked, won only one round, the eighth, unanimously. Johnston locked it up by sweeping the last four rounds on all cards.

"I wasn't worried about anything happening in the 11th and 12th because I knew Rios didn't have the punch to hurt me," Johnston said. "I knew he wasn't going to take the title from me, because he wasn't backing me up. He didn't throw anything. The longer it went, the more bull-headed I became. I was stupid. I fought the wrong fight. Rios was fast, but I know I'll knock him out if I get a chance to fight him again."

Let's hope that chance doesn't come. Prior to this fight, Johnston's promoter, Bob Arum, said the WBC was discussing a mandatory defense against England's Billy Schwer. But negotia-

tions began soon thereafter for that bout to be reset for a later date so Johnston can make a voluntary defense against the highly regarded Angel Manfredy in August.

Television: SET

Promoter: Top Rank

(6-26-99)

Jack Welsh

In Joo Cho KO 8 Pone Saengmorakot

Seoul, Korea: Slick-punching and unbeaten Korean Cho, 115, impressively kept the WBC super flyweight title, as he attacked Thailander Saengmorakot, 114¾, from the start and flattened him with a beautiful countering right at 2:44 of the eighth session at the ballroom of the Sheraton Walker Hill Hotel. It was Cho's second defense since he dethroned Filipino lefty Gerry Penalosa on an upset decision in Seoul last August. From the outset, Cho displayed his determination to raise his stock after his lackluster performance in outscoring Joel Luna Zarate in his first defense in January.

The 30-year-old champ took the initiative and swept the first three rounds, as he outjabbed and outsped the unbeaten Thailander. Saengmorakot, 25, occasionally retaliated with a left-right combination to the fleet-footed champ, who kept peppering him, showing off his superior hand speed.

In the fourth, Saengmorakot connected with a solid one-two combo to shake up the upright Korean, and he continued to initiate the action through much of the fifth. But the 5'7" champ, who is unusually lanky compared to most Korean bull-fighters, turned loose in the sixth, as he stalked the slightly shorter Saengmorakot. Cho also dominated the seventh with a fine display of fast rallies to his fading opponent.

The end came when Cho dropped Saengmorakot for a full 10-count with a perfectly timed countering right just as his challenger tried to throw a right of his own. The fine kayo, which raised Cho's mark to 15-0 (7), had the cheering crowd on its feet. Saengmorakot, who tasted his first defeat, fell to 17-1 (6).

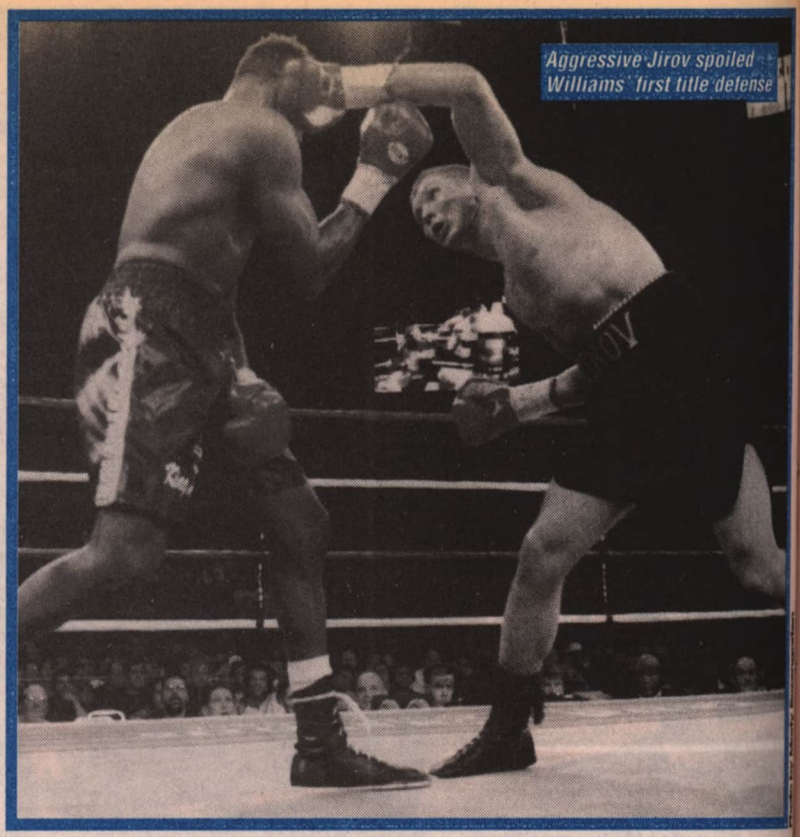
Cho is scheduled to make his third defense against Japanese lefty Keiji Yamaguchi, a former WBA light fly champ, in Tokyo on September 5. Both are fast-handed speedsters, so it should be a competitive match.

Referee: James Jen Kin (USA)

Promoter: Kusung Lee's Poong San Promotion

(6-13-99)

Joe Koizumi



Aggressive Jirov spoiled Williams' first title defense

Vassiliy Jirov KO 7 Arthur Williams

Biloxi, Mississippi: Short-lived reigns have been the norm in the cruiserweight division, and Williams, 188, Pensacola, Florida, now can be added to that growing list of dime-a-dozen champions. Jirov, 188, Kazakhstan, became the latest conqueror to claim the IBF belt, as he pummeled Williams, who was making his first defense, with a wicked body assault that resulted in two knockdowns on the undercard of the Roy Jones-Reggie Johnson unification bout at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum. Referee Paul Sita (USA) called a halt to the bout at 1:59 of the seventh.

"I lost the fight tonight, but I tried," said Williams, 30-5-1 (22). "I trained hard ... I have no excuses."

None were needed because Jirov, a 1996 Olympic gold medalist at light heavyweight, earned this one. Williams, 34, had some answers in the early going, nailing the on-rushing southpaw with lead rights and fighting on even terms in the first two rounds. Slipping a punch seemed to be an afterthought for Jirov, who was buckled by a straight right-left hook combination and hit with a series of lead rights to end the first. The same pattern ensued in the second round, but Williams—cut on his right eye—began to show signs of weakening as Jirov shook off those same right hands that had crumpled then-IBF champ Imamu Mayfield in Biloxi seven months earlier.

Williams neglected to throw an effective jab—he landed seven in seven rounds, according to CompuBox—nor did he follow his lead rights with combinations, thus allowing Jirov a clear path to unload. In the third, the champion was knocked down on a delayed reaction from a perfectly timed left uppercut that landed just under his chest. Williams responded, but couldn't strike the 25-year-old "Russian Tiger" with any punches of consequence.

"No one can take my punches to the body," Jirov said afterward. "That was plan number one."

By the sixth, Jirov, 21-0 (19), was mixing up his combinations to the body and head, even doubling the right hook, and Williams spent most of the round with his back against the ropes. The champion attempted to catch a break in the seventh, but an eager Jirov sensed the end was near and tried to goad Williams into an exchange. A retreating Williams was clipped cleanly with a straight left, a right hook, and a left hook to the body that dropped him for a nine-count.

Jirov mauled Williams into the ropes with more hooks until Sita intervened and called an end to the bout.

Television: HBO

Promoters: M & M Sports, Top Rank

(6-5-99)

Johnnie Whitehead

Lehlo Ledwaba W 12 John Michael Johnson

Hammanskraal, South Africa: South Africa's Ledwaba claimed the IBF junior featherweight crown vacated by countryman Vuyani Bungu when he scored a unanimous 12-round decision over Johnson, San Antonio, Texas, at the Carousel gambling resort before an estimated crowd of 4,000.

The 27-year-old Ledwaba, 121½, looked sharp as he moved in and out with pinpoint punching, and his fleet-footed style was too much for rugged former WBA bantam champ Johnson, 120¾. The American was unable to step up the pace except for in rounds six, seven, and eight, when he caught Ledwaba with overhand rights and left hooks with some regularity. Ledwaba said after the fight that his foul protector was too tight and he couldn't breathe normally in those rounds in which he looked sluggish. When his trainer, David Kgotsane, loosened the protector, Ledwaba was able to pick up the pace again and effectively mix his punches, scoring to the head and body as he had done in the first four rounds.

Only seconds before the final bell, a clash of heads left Johnson with a bad gash above his left eye, the only tricky spot for referee Lulama Mtya (South Africa) in an otherwise clean contest. All three judges scored in favor of Ledwaba, as Phakamile Jacobs (South Africa) had it 117-112, and Hilton Whitaker (USA) and Stuart Winston (USA) both saw it a surprisingly close 115-113. THE RING scored it 117-113.

After the fight, the 31-year-old Johnson, 26-6 (21), said that he was in good shape, but could not breathe in the later rounds. Golden Gloves promoter Rodney Berman said following the contest that Ledwaba, 28-1-1 (18), would not be rushed, and would instead be given a steady diet of experience-building bouts before considering any of the big names in the junior featherweight division.

(5-29-99)

Ron Jackson

Michael Grant W 10 Lou Savarese

New York, New York: It was probably the most important fight yet in the career of the 6'7", 256-pound Grant. Looking on were WBC heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis, who had promised the Grant-Savarese winner a title shot if his proposed November rematch with Evander Holyfield were to fall through, and Ike Ibeabuchi, who had recently surpassed Grant in the minds of many observers as the world's best young heavyweight. If ever there was a time when the pressure was on Grant to impress, this was it.

But he clearly wasn't feeling the pressure as he danced and sang his way into the ring at The Theater at Madison Square Garden. And though it would be a stretch to say Grant was just going through the motions, that overly relaxed posture accompanied him into the bout, resulting in another uninspired, though very one-sided, win.

From the outset, the strategy of Savarese, 240, Greenwood Lake, New York, was clear. He wanted to get close to Grant and take away the towering 26-year-old's jab, and Grant often allowed him to do that and willingly exchanged on the inside. Savarese enjoyed some strong moments early, especially when he landed a flush right-left combination in the second, but it wasn't long before Grant, Norristown, Pennsylvania, took over. In the third, Grant scored with a slew of bodyshots as well as several accurate uppercuts, and with referee Jim Santa (USA) struggling to break clinches and maintain order, Savarese ended up with a nasty cut over his left eye from a clash of heads.

The action remained very sloppy in the middle rounds, as there was often more mauling than boxing, but Grant was always the one landing the more significant punches. A right uppercut in the fifth landed with such force that the 33-year-old Savarese's head nearly snapped right off his shoulders, but he continued to retaliate gamely.

Grant began to look better in the eighth, as he landed a left hook followed by a right uppercut and unloaded with a flurry along the ropes. Grant then hurt Savarese with a right hand, and the New Yorker's exhaustion showed later in the round when he was pulled to the canvas by his opponent. Grant picked up the pace some more in the ninth, and then hit his stride in the 10th when a torrent of punches midway through the round sent Savarese sprawling through the ropes. Though clearly on his way to defeat, Savarese rolled back into the ring and willed himself up at the count of six, only to be sent to his knees again with 20 seconds left in the fight. Santa looked in closely as the final seconds ticked

Grant's mediocre effort was still enough to thwart Savarese

Photo by Marty Rosengarten

down, but allowed a clutching Savarese to finish on his feet.

Despite that moral victory, though, the bloodied and battered Savarese, 39-3 (32), had lost on all other counts, including looking his best for his wedding scheduled for the following month. The decision in Grant's favor was unanimous, with judges Melvina Latham (USA) and Steve Weisfeld (USA) both scoring the fight 98-90, while Joe Dwyer (USA) had it 97-91. THE RING scored it 99-90.

"Lou Savarese is a tough guy, but I just didn't feel threatened by him," said Grant, 30-0 (21), whose hopes of Lewis-Holyfield II not happening looked slim as we went to press. "I don't feel like I put tremendous punishment on him. Sometimes I have an animal instinct. Sometimes I go in there calm and humble. Tonight was one of those nights."

Television: HBO

Promoter: Main Events

(6-19-99)

Eric Raskin

Lakva Sim KO 5 Takanori Hatakeyama

Tokyo, Japan: Hard-punching Mongolian Sim, 130, became the first man from his country to seize a world title, as he exploded a devastating right to the chin of defending WBA super feather champ Hatakeyama, 130, Japan, to drop him flat en route to a fine TKO victory at 1:46 of the fifth round.

It was a short but hard-fought battle. The previously unbeaten Hatakeyama, making his second defense, started with a stick-and-move strategy that worked well against the pressure of the more powerful Mongolian in the opening session. The 23-year-old Japanese champ dominated the second, as he threw more jabs than Sim and caught him with a fast left-right combination. Sim, 28, kept coming forward regardless of his combinations missing the elusive Hatakeyama.

The third saw Hatakeyama connect with a solid right hook that temporarily had Sim off-balance. But Sim, a bit shorter than the 5'8" champ, retaliated with heavier left-right combinations, while Hatakeyama kept circling and landing sharp but ineffective punches. The aggressive Sim was in command in round four, with the high point being a beautiful right uppercut. The Mongolian often threw strong left-right combos, though most were blocked by the champ. Hatakeyama tried to respond to Sim's attack with busy one-twos and right uppercuts, but he looked outhustled and overpowered by the willing mixer.

In the fifth, Sim landed a very powerful left-right to the champ's chin, and he went down hard. Hatakeyama barely pulled himself up, and was allowed to resume fighting. Sim, 11-1-1 (10), furiously swarmed over him with a fusillade of punches, pinning him to the ropes. With Hatakeyama, 22-1-2 (17), looking groggy and helpless, referee Stanley Christodoulou (South Africa) finally declared a halt to save the loser from further punishment. It was truly an impressive win for Sim, whose only previous loss came when he fought for the title in just his sixth pro fight and lost a hairline split decision to then-champion Yong Soo Choi in '97.

Promoter: Yokohama Hikari Promotions in association with Kyoei Promotions

(6-27-99)

Joe Koizumi

Zolani Petelo KO 1 Eric Jamili

Hammanskraal, South Africa: Petelo, making his third defense of the IBF mini flyweight title, demolished mandatory challenger Eric Jamili of the Philippines at the 1:21 mark of the first round at the Carousel gambling resort.

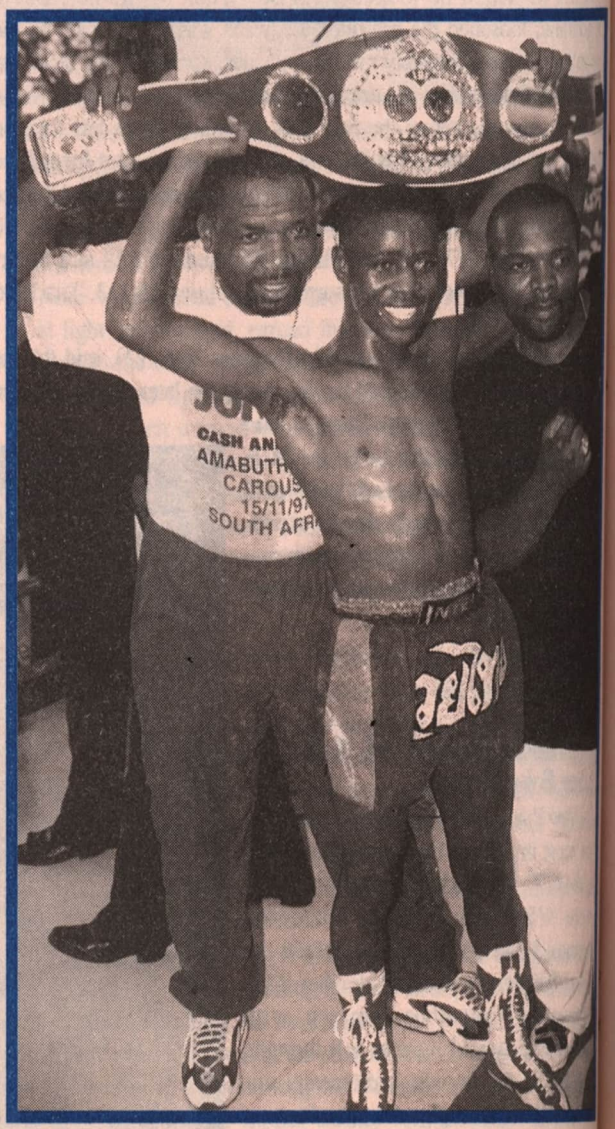
With both boxers fighting from the southpaw stance, a few light blows were exchanged in the first minute before the lightning-fast Petelo, 23, slipped inside to score with a left hook to the ribs. Jamili, 22, sank to the canvas writhing in pain and clutching his side, and was promptly counted out by referee Clement Martin (South Africa). Many of the ringsiders questioned the South African's quick win, feeling they had been shortchanged by the challenger, but the television replays showed quite clearly what a great puncher the little champion is, demonstrating how he landed the finishing blow in clinical fashion.

Jamili, 13-8-1 (8), was expected to extend the champion, but the powerful showing by Petelo, 14-2-2 (8), further underlined his standing as one of the best 105-pounders in the world.

Promoter: Rodney Berman

(5-29-99)

Ron Jackson



Petelo destroyed Jamili to record his third defense of the IBF title

Roy Jones

(Continued from page 37)

less of how many belts he had cluttering his trophy case.

Despite the compromises with quality that Jones made along the way to unifying the 175-pound division for the first time since Michael Spinks turned the trick by outpointing Dwight Muhammad Qawi in March '83, he deserves credit for accomplishing what has regrettably become a rare feat. He also silenced critics who had knocked him for not sticking around long enough in the middleweight and super middleweight divisions, where he won his first two titles, to unify the championships. That he could drop back down to 168 pounds and also put the pieces of that title back together is not in question; it's a given. But that would be taking a backward step in more than just poundage. What boxing fans really want is to see Jones in a competitive contest, and to find that, it is customarily assumed that an assault on the heavyweight division would be necessary.

During the broadcast of the Jones-Johnson fight, viewers could log on to HBO's Web site and vote for whether or not they wanted Jones to fight a heavyweight. The final tally was 59 percent in favor, 41 percent against. Afterward, Jones said, as he usually does, that "Roy Jones will do whatever the people want Roy Jones to do." But as of this writing, no decision had been made on his next fight.

"Largely, it's up to Roy what he does next," said DiBella. "The earliest you'll see him back in the ring is late-fall, so he has time to figure out what he wants to do. I sent him tapes of some smallish heavyweights, guys like David Tua, Lamon Brewster, and Ed Mahone. Ed isn't small, but he's slow. Roy figures he's not going to have the power to outpunch heavyweights, so he's looking for guys who aren't too big or guys he can outspeed. Of course, the match Roy dreams about is against Evander Holyfield. But it's very unlikely he'll ever get the opportunity because, regardless of what happens in the Holyfield-Lewis rematch, Evander's not going to fight him."

Jones has talked of retiring many times over the past few years and also of his aversion to some aspects of the game. He's always been more concerned than most fighters about the physical damage he and his brethren endure. This compassionate attitude was clearly evident in the Johnson fight, when Jones, who could obviously have scored a knockout if he'd really gone all-out, eased up in the later rounds, content to coast to a shutout victory. While this facet of Jones' personality is admirable from a humanistic point of view, it has also prevented him from achieving something far greater than universal recognition as light heavyweight champion. It has, to date, prevented him from universal acclaim as the best fighter, pound-for-pound, in the world.

You can't separate a fighter's mental outlook from his physical attributes, and Jones is no exception. According to him, he has two separate personalities, nice guy Roy Jones and his ruthless alter ego R.J. The last time R.J. made an appearance inside a boxing ring, Montell Griffin, the only fighter to hold a pro victory over him, albeit via disqualification, was dispatched in less than one round. Apparently, it takes some sort of personal affront or imminent danger of losing for R.J. to surface. Against Johnson, another nice guy without much of a chance of winning, R.J. remained locked safely away inside Jones' psyche, a rarely used ultimate weapon.

As agreeable as it is to have at least one undisputed champion, both boxing and Jones would be better served if he could conjure up R.J. on a regular basis. If that happens, the game would have something far better than an undisputed light heavyweight champion. It would have a fighter capable of doing things that even Roy Jones can't do. ■

Davey Hilton

(Continued from page 39)

ably now garner a well-deserved junior middleweight title shot, probably against WBA champion David Reid or IBF titlist Fernando Vargas, he is in the unenviable position of not being allowed to leave the province of Quebec without the court's permission. Even if allowed to do so on a one-time basis, he would be subject to immediate arrest if he entered the United States.

"I know I can't leave Quebec, but how many places can a guy draw 20,000 people?" said Hilton. "The money is here to make it worthwhile for any champion to come. If that doesn't work out, maybe I can get some type of card to go to the United States just for the fight, then come right back. I heard Vargas was willing to come to Montreal, but wanted to take all the money. If they pay me what I deserve, I'll fight anybody. But I'm not going to fight for charity, especially when I can draw all those people."

"Our conversations are going well with both America Presents and Main Events [the promoters of Reid and Vargas, respectively], and we could hopefully convince HBO to come up here, too," said Yvon Michel, the general manager of Interbox, the Montreal outfit that promotes Hilton. "In that weight division, there are not a lot of guys with power like Davey. And there are not a lot of places you can draw more than 20,000 fans to an arena. Whether good or bad, the public interest Davey generates is amazing."

"If the money is right, Fernando would be willing to go anywhere to fight," said Donald Tremblay, the publicist for Main Events. "Hilton always makes for exciting fights and is the type of opponent Fernando would look great against. Fighting him is not like fighting Larry Donald or Chris Byrd. He's very easy to find, and his bull-like strength would work against him with Fernando. The fight certainly seems like it would be financially viable, if the ticket and pay-per-view sales of his second fight with Ouellet are any indication. Whether or not the fight happens, I don't know. But if it does, it sure as hell would be a fun fight, a great television fight. I guarantee nobody would fall asleep."

While the Ouellet rematch was televised by ESPN2 in the United States, it produced 14,000 pay-per-view sales in Quebec alone, and a live gate of over $1.2-million. While those kind of numbers might lure a particularly gallant champion to the lion's den, Lou DiBella, senior vice president of HBO Sports, said he would not be so eager to go to Montreal for a number of reasons.

"I would be interested in Hilton as an opponent for either Reid or Vargas, no doubt about that," he said. "But I would

have a hard time going out of the country to produce the show, even though there would be an electric environment in Montreal. It would be an unusual step for us to go there. First of all, it would be very expensive, and second of all, if we are only going there because he is not allowed to come to the United States because he will be arrested, well, that would just be unseemly."

However, DiBella, a Harvard-educated lawyer, maintains that America's innocent-until-proven-guilty doctrine would not preclude him from broadcasting a fight with Hilton in the United States.

"If his license to box was not yanked, and we were assured he would not be arrested as soon as he stepped off the plane, of course I would consider using him," he added. "He's not supremely gifted, but has a great style and is a very exciting fighter. He has a little bit in common with his brother-in-law [Arturo Gatti]."

The fact that Hilton is even being considered for a title shot at this stage of his life is almost incomprehensible. Since turning professional at age 17 in 1981, he has been teetering on a tightrope as he's headed toward the destiny that his father, Davey Sr., a former featherweight contender and veteran of over 150 professional fights, designed for him. Long before he could walk, Davey Jr., along with younger brothers Alex, Matthew, and the late Stewart, who died in a 1986 car crash, were programmed to do nothing but box. A sister, Joanne, also found herself immersed in the boxing culture. She is currently married to Dave Williamson, a former amateur standout.

While the 58-year-old Davey Sr., a hard-luck, hard-scrabble man, bequeathed a wealth of fistic talent to all of his sons, he also passed down a propensity for alcohol abuse and all the trouble that comes with it. The elder Hilton is no stranger to Montreal law enforcement circles, having been arrested many times for domestic abuse and public brawling. His sons followed him down that road with equal aplomb. However, Davey Jr. said being of Scottish descent in the predominantly French and Italian Rosemont section of Montreal caused as many problems as the alcohol ever did for the family over the years.

"For people not from this area, it is hard to believe all the rivalries between French-Canadians and everybody else," said Davey Jr. "That's why the rivalry with Ouellet was so strong. When I fought Mario Cusson [another French-Canadian whom he met twice in Montreal in the early-'80s], we drew 22,000 people. The only times me or my brothers got booed in Montreal was when we were fighting French-Canadians."

Although Davey Jr. is trilingual, he admits that the universal language spoken at home was always boxing. From the time he stopped attending school in the sixth grade, he and his brothers, who he said quit school after the fourth grade, lived and breathed boxing. Davey Jr. amassed an amateur record of 132-2 and won a slew of national amateur titles. He always enjoyed a fine relationship with his father and mother, Jean, while boxing, but rifts regularly seemed to occur when life moved beyond the squared circle. In '81, the same year he turned pro, Davey Jr. married Ann Marie, whose parents were Italian immigrants and whose two brothers, both fledgling boxers at the time, worshipped the ground he walked on. The late Gatti patriarch, Johnny, was as maniacal a boxing fanatic as Davey Sr., and he implored his two sons to fulfill his unfulfilled dreams with equal zeal.

Because the two fathers were both so stubborn and strict, being together was often like mixing gas and fire. As Davey Jr. and Ann Marie exchanged vows, tempers were flaring and fists were flying.

"Both families wanted ethnic weddings, so that was a problem right away," said Davey Jr. "On one side of the room were all the Italians, and the Scottish were on the other. My father was drinking that day, and didn't want his son taken away. Her father felt the same way. My father banged somebody, and there were lots of fist fights."

The newlyweds lived in his parents' basement for a while, before opting for their own digs elsewhere. Over the next couple of years, Davey Jr. and his brothers spent time living and training with the legendary boxing guru Cus D'Amato in Catskill, New York. They became close friends with a teenage amateur sensation named Mike Tyson, who had publicly stated back then that the Hiltons were his favorite fighters. There have long been rumors that the Hiltons were even more incorrigible than Tyson while living in Catskill. Davey Jr. goes so far as to say he even saved Tyson from getting attacked by seven men inside a local bar.

"Mike had a problem with five or six black guys and a white guy who were going to jump him," recalled Davey Jr. "Somebody told us about it, so me, my two brothers [Matthew and Stewart], and Tom Patti [a longtime Tyson friend who has testified on his behalf on many occasions] went to back him up. I wound up banging out one of the guys, and then nobody else would fight. Mike saw the whole thing, and we became better friends than ever after that."

At his father's urging, Davey Jr. became aligned with Don King in the mid-'80s, and does not have pleasant memories of that association. He said he was promised a minimum of $50,000 per fight, as well as a title bout with Aaron Pryor. When that fight fell out, he said he was assured that bouts with Donald Curry and Roberto Duran were being worked on, but they also fell out. After training long and hard at King's Orwell, Ohio, training camp where he said the only available food was soul food, which he did not like in the least, King kept him busy with $5,000 fights against Dennis Fain and Dennis Horne in '85.

"I told him I was promised at least $50,000 to fight my grandmother," recalled Hilton. "I told him to go f___ himself. He called my father, who got very mad at me, and said he wanted nothing to do with me. I told him to go f___ himself, too."

The following year, Stewart was killed in a car crash, and Hilton started drinking more heavily than ever. He fought regularly with his father, and didn't box for two years. The little time he spent at home with his wife and children was usually just to sleep off drunkenness. After a night of club-hopping in '88, Davey Jr. and Matthew robbed a donut shop and landed in the Bordeaux Prison for the better part of a year. Perhaps a better punishment would have been permanent enshrinement on a wall of shame featuring the world's stupidest criminals.

Davey Jr. remembers the counterman looking like the Archie comic book character, a factor that sent the inebriated

brothers into a laughing fit. Davey Jr. said that without any premeditation he mustered up his best James Cagney imitation and said jokingly, "Give us 12 donuts, 12 coffees, and all the cash." To this day he swears that he was shocked when the man forked over the money. It never dawned on him that he and his brother would be easily recognized as regular front-page newspaper fodder for their drunken exploits and legal woes, or back-page fodder for their athletic achievements. Minutes later, they were arrested as Matthew slept in the back seat of the car.

"That was definitely a low period in my life," said Davey Jr. "With all the booze in me, I just didn't give a s___ about anything. But I was receiving therapy for my drinking, and really started to miss my family. There were lots of problems between [rival motorcycle gangs] the Hell's Angels and the Rock Machine in prison, but we didn't have much trouble with anybody. They kept trying to get us on their sides, but we just stayed to ourselves and did our time."

He has embarked on several comebacks since his release, and regularly augmented his income throughout the '90s by working for his father's small driveway paving company. He likes to joke that once again he felt like a bit of an outcast because of the fact that Italians own most of the companies doing that kind of work in the city. He says he was "just surviving" when the reality of all the family foibles hit him head-on after Alex was sentenced to at least five years in prison in the early part of this decade for a variety of charges, including a shooting in which nobody was injured.

"I just realized how much stupid s___ we'd been involved in," Davey Jr. explained. "It was just craziness, nothing but craziness."

After a three-year layoff, Hilton began what is sure to be his final comeback in '96. He quickly avenged his only loss, a 10-round decision defeat to French-Canadian Alain Bonnamie in '90, by fighting him to a draw and then pounding out a 10-round decision over him during a four-month period. After signing with Interbox, the promoters of Ouellet, in '98, the quest for hometown supremacy, as well as a last-ditch effort for career revitalization, was spawned. Hilton, realizing that he was personally and professionally hanging off the side of a sinking ship, made the best of what will most certainly be his last shot at any kind of redemption by beating the favored Ouellet twice. Sadly, with the severe criminal charges hanging over his head, he could just as easily be remembered for being a troubled fighter whose entire life seemed geared toward self-destruction.

Hilton freely admits that most of his epic problems were caused by his battles with the bottle, and insists that those days are far behind him. He has stopped drinking whiskey, which he said made him "snap," but, avoiding the basic tenet of alcohol rehabilitation, still drinks an occasional beer. But so much irreparable damage has already been done. Besides losing his wife and family and facing a stiff jail sentence, his relationship with the Gatti brothers is in such shambles that he proclaimed, "I would love to fight Arthur [Arturo] in the ring at 150 pounds, then do it again in the parking lot for free because of all the bad things he said about me and my family."

Although far from a *Father Knows Best*-type father, he says the interests of his children are not being best served in the sole custody of their mother.

Although Hilton made $210,000 for the Ouellet rematch, he is living with his parents and getting along with them better than he has in years. Boxing has once again been his life preserver, the one thing that can always be relied on to bring him a degree of order amid a life of chaos. On the day he spoke with THE RING, his parents had accompanied him to a shopping mall to buy running shoes.

"My family has always been tight," he insisted. "We are always here for each other, whether things are good or bad. I love them to death."

Davey Sr. admits that the family has had its troubles over the years, but is confident that his son will overcome his battery of inter-generational demons and bring home the family's second world championship.

"Davey's in the best shape of his life, mentally and physically," said Davey Sr. "I've never seen him so intense. It's a shame he's got all these family problems. They have to bother him; they would bother anyone. But I think they made him a little more focused. He knows he's only got three or four good years left to make some money and become a champion. It's now or never, and he knows that better than anybody."

Although Hilton was loudly booed prior to the Ouellet rematch, he was cheered even more loudly after scoring the debilitating knockout.

"Everybody likes a winner," said Jacques Theriault, the publicist for Interbox. "The Hilton family are like tragic heroes. They are so talented, but so lost. But the public has a love-hate relationship with them because they are so charismatic. In a way, the public needs them because they can either love them or hate them." ■

Robert Mladinich is a freelance writer based in New York City and a regular contributor to this magazine.

Hall of Fame

(Continued from page 42)

also enjoying retirement and relished his return to the spotlight.

"Being voted into the Hall of Fame and joining all these great fighters means a great deal to me," said the Panamanian, who made 19 defenses between 1978-'85. "My last fight [a controversial 10-round decision loss to Mauro Gutierrez in 1992] left me disgusted with boxing. But coming here washes that away. This has been a great experience. I was surprised at how many people here remembered my fights with Juan LaPorte and Rocky Lockridge. Getting inducted makes me happy for my family, my fans, especially those in Latin America. This honor I share with them."

Pedroza owns a pig farm in Panama and works for the government as a chief of General Services, an agency that provides utilities to disadvantaged citizens.

"I enjoy the work," Pedroza said. "I was poor, and to be able to bring electricity and plumbing to people has its rewards."

Two years ago when promoter Don King was inducted, his arch-rival, Bob Arum, scoffed at the notion of honoring promoters in general and King in particular. However, several insiders impressed upon Arum that the personality wasn't being honored, but rather the significant role he and King have played over the last

three decades. The Las Vegas-based promoter was also told that if he decided to boycott his own induction, he'd be the first honoree in 10 years to do so. His thinking has certainly changed since Brophy notified him of the voting results in January.

"I'd like to thank the Hall for this great honor," said Arum, who started promoting in the mid-'60s. "I've never been here before, and I didn't know what I was missing. This is wonderful. The community support, the way the Hall is organized, and so I'm absolutely delighted to be inducted.

"But," said the man who's promoted fights involving Muhammad Ali, Roberto Duran, Sugar Ray Leonard, Marvin Hagler, Oscar De La Hoya, and Floyd Mayweather, "As I've said before, I don't believe that I'm deserving of this award. However, I wouldn't want to leave it on a negative note on this joyous occasion. Sometimes people get an award, and then what they do subsequently justifies the award they previously received. I hope that'll be the case in my situation."

Nobody would ever deny that Mickey Duff has been one of the most influential men in boxing since World War II. The 50-year ring veteran started his career as a successful amateur and pro welterweight/middleweight in the 1940s, then switched to matchmaking, managing, and promoting in the '50s. He even worked the corners of several world champs. And by the mid-'60s, Duff was perhaps the most powerful man in boxing on the Continent. But when he was getting an impression done of his fist (an honor bestowed on all enshrinees), it dawned on him that with all the power he wielded during his career, this was the first time he had ever made an impression with his fists.

Publicist Irving Rudd joined Duff, and his old boss Arum, in the Non-Participant category. Throughout his half-century in the game, Rudd was the boxing writers' best friend and made an art form of raising awareness of championship fights. He worked with every major champion, including Sugar Rays Robinson and Leonard, and worked for both King and Arum.

"I had a magnificent time. I ate, drank, and thoroughly enjoyed myself," joked Rudd. "I did everything but the job I'm supposed to do, get publicity for the fighters."

Some fighters took the high road en route to Canastota, some the low, and a few the road less traveled. But former light heavyweight and heavyweight contender of the 1940 and '50s Jimmy Bivins nearly found himself on a path usually trod by characters in a Stephen King novel. Last year, Bivins was found in the attic of his daughter's house by Cleveland police, the victim of physical abuse and neglect. He was in terrible condition, and authorities said the man who was simultaneously rated number one at light heavyweight and heavyweight in '42 was near death when they found him. Thankfully, Bivins was rescued and nursed back to health by a sister and a longtime friend, Gary Horvath, who now acts as the 79-year-old ring great's legal guardian.

"Jimmy's a gentle and kind man," said Horvath, who Bivins guided to several Ohio State Golden Gloves championships in the mid-'60s. "He doesn't brag about his accomplishments nor dwell on what happened to him."

That unseemly episode drew the attention of the national media, and Bivins found himself back in the headlines for the first time in more than 40 years. But when he addressed the crowd on induction weekend, Bivins focused on his star-crossed career.

"I fought some great fighters, and beat most of them, but things just didn't work out," said Bivins, who seemed energized by the fact that he was the crowd favorite throughout the weekend. Although Bivins owned wins over four of the seven future Hall of Famers he met and eight past or future world champions, he never received a title shot. But instead of boasting about knocking out Archie Moore or outpointing Ezzard Charles during his acceptance speech, Bivins preferred to share with the crowd a light moment from his 10-round decision loss to Joe Louis in '51. The comebacking Louis told Bivins he'd knock out the Cleveland native. But Bivins replied, "You've got to catch me first."

Bivins, unlike Billy Conn 10 years earlier, was able to run—and hide. But there was no need to hide or step out of the limelight on that beautiful June weekend in Canastota. Although he doesn't exist in boxing books that generally list past champions, Bivins' place in fistic lore is now secure.

Galaxy, who only fought outside Asia once, is part of a fraternity that knows no language, cultural, or natural boundaries. Fans visiting the Hall will forever know that Arum and Duff were responsible for facilitating some of the greatest ring battles in history as well as guiding the careers of some the sport's greatest warriors. Pedroza, who was never better than second-best among fighters from Panama, seldom heard his more famous countryman's name during the weekend. And for once, Rudd, the consummate professional who did his best work behind the scenes, received a standing ovation from two of his old subjects, Leonard and Hagler. And that is how it should be. ■

Ed Maloney is the former associate editor of this magazine.

New Faces

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seniors tour on June 18, in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

"Jermaine has a lot of potential," said Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, the former WBA light heavyweight champ who saw the fight and later worked Smith's corner. "He can box and punch, and he's a very good boxer. He can go, there's no doubt about that. I used to watch him when he was out here in Vegas. He's very smart and he can adapt to certain situations.

"He seems to have good people around him, but if I were him, I'd try to get away from too many slugfests. If he has a chance to box, I'd tell him, then box. He's thinking about Floyd Mayweather some day, but when you talk about Floyd Mayweather, you're talking about deep, deep water. Jermaine still has to see if he can swim. If he keeps on developing the way he is, he can give anyone a good match, even Mayweather. He just has to stay focused right now and do what he has been doing."

Fields has been boxing for most of his life. He started when he was six, along with his brothers William Jr., Leonard, and Anthony. Boxing, Fields quickly discovered, was something he did better than anything else. Competing with his brothers made it even more enjoyable. Fields is the third oldest of the boys, who routinely drove their parents up the walls with their

high energy. As soon as Fields' parents stepped out, the house turned into a wrestling ring. The boys would stage battle royals, taking turns on each other until one of them got hurt.

It reached a point where William Sr. and Carnell had to hurry home before some piece of furniture was wrecked. William Sr. was beside himself. He did not know what to do with these four young scrappers who were constantly fighting. Then he came up with a thought: Why not boxing? The boys would expend their enormous energy tanks, and he and his wife could finally have some peace and quiet for a change.

What may not have figured into William Sr.'s equation was the foursome's instant success. They won tournament after tournament, fighting every weekend. Until finally, when Jermaine was 16 in 1988, the boys got together and decided they needed a hiatus from boxing. The sport was dominating their lives.

"We lived boxing," said Fields. "I was burnt out. Back then, my father was real hard on my brothers and I. As kids, we felt we didn't have a childhood. Everything we did revolved around boxing. My father, you know, saw something we didn't see in ourselves. He always believed we had good talent, and he wanted us to maximize that talent, but kids want to be kids.

"After a while, with all the traveling, and going to places you never were before, it was getting boring. We felt we needed a break. One day, my brothers and I had a meeting, and we went to my father and told him we needed a break. We wanted to hang out with our friends, and my father always used to tell us, if we started hanging out, it would get to a point were we would never be able to get our roadwork done or school work, or we would wind up dead or locked up. I remember my father was a little disappointed. It was so long ago, I don't remember what he said, but he was always the type of person who stood behind us in anything we wanted to do."

Winning an Olympic gold medal was something that always drove Fields. It was a desire that motivated all of the boys, but it was Jermaine who pushed the hardest toward reaching that goal. He started boxing again in '91 when he was 19. He had hoped to convince his brothers to follow, but none of them did right then, although Anthony later turned pro. Fields was consumed by the dream of standing on an Olympic medal podium, when on the night of August 28, 1992, everything he worked for seemed suddenly unimportant. His pager kept going off and "9-1-1" kept popping up on his screen. Soon after, he was informed of William's death. He sulked for a time, but quickly rebounded.

"My brother's death made me more hungry in terms of trying to win all my tournaments and trying to get to the top," Fields said. "When I started again, my other brothers didn't want to come back. It was a very tough feeling, because you feel alone, like all of the pressure is on you. They encouraged me to keep going. My youngest brother, Anthony, wanted to turn pro when he started back. My goal was to win a gold medal, that's why I waited."

Fields took two shots at attaining his dream. He advanced to the semifinals as a 112-pounder in '92, and made it as an alternate on the '96 team that competed in Atlanta, losing to Terrance Cauthen in the lightweight finals. Fields beat Cauthen in the Unites States amateur championships, and feels he fought against more than just Cauthen when it came down to the Olympic Trials.

"I'm convinced I had to knock out Cauthen to win," Fields maintained. "I decided not to turn pro after '92 because I was still young and I wanted to win a gold medal. They gave the fight to Terrance. I have no animosity toward Terrance. Whatever he does, I want him to do well. But the Olympic Trials, in my opinion, was all about politics and who you know."

Mayweather is one fighter in particular Fields would like to get to know a little better. The two know each other from the '96 Olympic team and occasionally worked out together.

"I remember Jermaine as a good fighter, with a decent punch and good boxing skills," Mayweather said. "Even as an amateur, he had a professional style. I can't predict the future, but some things can go good for him and we can meet down the line. He's a good fighter, with the potential to be better." ■

Maurice Harris

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One other factor in Harris' development as a boxer is the tremendous experience he's accumulated against world-class opposition. True, the best he's faced in official bouts have been guys like Williams, Holmes, Jimmy Thunder (whom Harris kayoed in seven rounds in '97) and David Izon (whom Harris decisioned over eight rounds in '96). But he's served as a sparring partner to undisputed light heavyweight champ Roy Jones and WBC heavyweight king Lennox Lewis, both of whom helped Harris raise his game to a higher level.

"I sparred with Roy when I was 17 or 18, when he was getting ready for Percy Harris, and I took a *beating* from Roy," Harris said. "I used to cry, and I'd tell myself, 'I gotta get good.' The first time I sparred with Lennox, he knocked me down with a left hook, and after that one day, I ran away, I left camp. But then we sparred a lot more when he was getting ready for Shannon Briggs and Zeljko Mavrovic, and I did a lot better. Those guys taught me how to show grit and determination. They taught me that you can't give up if you want to make it to the top."

The more recent sparring sessions with Lewis inspired tremendous confidence in the Harris camp. Al-Amin said that Lewis' trainer, Emanuel Steward, told him that Lewis becomes uneasy when he's about to spar with Harris because the young contender's skills, quickness, and deceptive power make their workouts a constant challenge. Steward even said on ESPN2 this past spring that he felt Harris might be the best young heavyweight in the world.

The sessions with Lewis also helped Harris' career in another way. It was during the training in Big Bear, California, for Lewis' fight with Mavrovic that Harris met Floyd Mayweather, who was in camp preparing to challenge Genaro Hernandez for the WBC super featherweight title. And it was Mayweather and his father, Floyd Sr., who soon after recommended that their promotional company, Top Rank, take a look at the heavyweight with the world's worst record-to-talent ratio.

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BACK ISSUES OF KO

Back issues of several editions of *KO Magazine*, the acknowledged leader in boxing journalism, are still available in limited quantity. Since its inception in 1980, *KO* has become known for its quality stories and columns and peak-action photographs. Plus, each issue contains a full-color centerfold. Don't delay. Supplies are running out!

April 1982: Holmes vs. Cooney—The 20 Crucial Questions On The Biggest Fight In History. Color Pinup: Gerry Cooney. Interview: Marvin Hagler. Also: Tony Ayala Jr., Baltazar brothers, Pedroza, Larry Hazzard, Joe Frazier.

March 1983: Sugar Ray Retires: An Era Comes To An End. Color Pinup: Jeff Chandler. Interview: Hilmer Kenty. Also: Don Curry, Pryor-Arguello I, Pedroza-Taylor, Roger Mayweather.

June 1983: WBA Jr. Middleweight Champion Davey Moore: Bracing For Duran's Last Stand. Color Pinup: Donald Curry. Interview: Pinklon Thomas. Also: Duran-Cuevas, Hagler-Sibson.

Aug. 1983: Michael Spinks: King Of The Light Heavyweights ... But The Glory Can't Erase The Sadness. Color Pinup: Johnny Bumphus. Interview: Jones & Rappaport. Also: Jones-McCrory, Pryor-Arguello II preview, world's best fighter poll, Jeff Chandler, Mark Breland, Leon Spinks.

Oct. 1983: Is Larry Holmes Finished? Color Pinup: Greg Page. Interview: Marvis Frazier. Also: Marvin Hagler, Bobby Chacon, Jack Dempsey.

Aug. 1984: WBC Heavyweight Champion Terrible Tim Witherspoon: A Superstar Of Tomorrow? Color Pinup: Rocky Lockridge. Interview: Sugar Ray Leonard. Also: Marvin Hagler, Gomez-LaPorte.

Oct. 1984: Golden Boy Mark Breland: Can He Be The Next Sugar Ray? Color Pinup: Jaime Garza. Interview: Aaron Pryor. Also: Bramble-Mancini, Sugar Ray Leonard.

Nov. 1984: Thomas Hearns: "Hagler Is Shakin' Like A Leaf On A Tree!" Color Pinup: Tim Witherspoon. Interview: Livingstone Bramble. Also: Rosario-Davis, Marlon Starling.

Jan. 1985: The Wide-Open Heavyweight Division: Who Will Take Control? Color Pinup: Bill Costello. Interview: Tyrone Crawley. Also: Harry Arroyo, Curry-Pryor, Barry McGuigan.

Feb. 1985: Gerry Cooney: How Far Can He Go This Time? Color Pinup: Michael Spinks. Interview: Ray Mancini. Also: Dream fights, Hector Camacho.

March 1985: Next For Marvelous Marvin Hagler: The Only Fight That Really Matters. Color pinup: Mike McCallum. Interview: Thomas Hearns. Also: Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza, Holmes-Bonecrusher.

May 1985: Thomas Hearns: KO Fighter Of The Year. Color Pinup: Gerry Cooney. Also: Camacho-Ramirez, Truth Williams, Year In Review.

July 1985: Aaron Pryor: Has Hawk Time Run Out? Color Pinup: Donald Curry. Interview: Greg Page. Also: Ray Mancini, James Shuler, Costello-Hatcher.

Aug. 1985: King Cobra: "Hagler-Hearns Is Done And I'm Better Than Both Of Them!" Color Pinup: John Mugabi. Interview: Bobby Czyz. Also: Larry Holmes, Roberto Duran, DeWitt-Lee.

Dec. 1985: Pinklon Thomas: "Larry Holmes Betrayed Boxing." Color Pinup: Hagler-Mugabi. Also: Mike McCallum, Tyrell Biggs, Camacho-Ramirez.

Jan. 1986: Macho Mania! Hector Camacho Takes Aim At 10 Tough Targets. Color Pinup: Jimmy Paul. Interview: Alexis Arguello. Also: Truth Williams, Curry-McCrory.

July 1986: Tyson, McGuigan, Hagler: The Stars Catch Fire And Boxing Is Hot Again! Color Pinup: Azumah Nelson. Also: Camacho-Chavez.

Dec. 1986: Larry Holmes' Message To Mike Tyson: "Show Me You Can Kick My Butt!" Color pinup: Mark Breland. Interview: Holmes. Plus: Witherspoon-Bruno, Evander Holyfield, Cruz-McGuigan, Danny Lopez.

Feb. 1987: Upset Of The Decade: Has Honeyghan Cut Short The Curry Era? Color Pinup: Marvin Johnson. Interview: Bobby Czyz. Also: Edwin Rosario, Hector Camacho.

May 1987: Hagler vs. Leonard: Who Will Win And Why. Color Pinup: Edwin Rosario. Also: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Leonard-Hagler, Bobby Czyz, Greg Haugen.

Sept. 1987: Bobby Czyz: Finally, His Accomplishments Match His Appeal. Color Pinup: Sugar Ray. Interview: Lloyd Honeyghan. Also: Mark Breland, Hector Camacho, Weekend Warriors.

Oct. 1987: Greatness Beckons: When Will Mike Tyson Answer The Call? Color Pinup: Michael Olajide. Interview: Tyrell Biggs. Also: Paz-Haugen, Marvin Hagler.

Nov. 1987: Michael Spinks: The War With Tyson Is Okay With Him. Color Pinup: Vinny Pazienza. Interview: Frankie Duarte. Also: Matthew Hilton, Hagler-Czyz.

Dec. 1987: Mike Tyson: Undisputed Heavyweight King-But Is He Losing His Loyal Subjects? Color Pinup: Matthew Hilton. Interview: Barry McGuigan. Also: Aaron Pryor, Mike McCallum.

Jan. 1988: The Collapse Of A Hero: Why Breland Never Hit The Mark Of Greatness. Color Pinup: Michael Spinks. Interview: Aaron Pryor. Also: Michael Nunn, Alexis Arguello, lightweights.

Feb. 1988: Pazienza & Haugen Go For Each Other's Throats. Color Pinup: Marlon Starling. Interview: Bob Arum. Also: Tate-Olajide, ESPN Boxing.

May 1988: KO Exclusive-Mike Tyson, As Only Mike Tyson Knows Him. Color Pinup: Mike McCallum. Interview: Thomas Hearns. Also: Tyson-Spinks Poll, Michael Dokes, Virgil Hill.

July 1988: Superfight History Dictates: Don't Expect The Expected From Tyson-Spinks. Color Pinup: Roger Mayweather. Interview: Dr. Ferdie Pacheco. Also: Roberto Duran, Azumah Nelson, Barkley-Olajide.

Aug. 1988: Tyson-Spinks: KO's Fearless Forecast Of Superfight '88. Color Pinup: Buddy McGirt. Interview: Matthew Hilton. Also: Lockridge-Knight, Evander Holyfield, Lloyd Honeyghan.

Sept. 1988: Tyson-Spinks, The Aftermath—What If Tyson Wins; What If Spinks Wins? Color Pinup: Frank Tate. Interview: Marlon Starling. Also: Barry McGuigan, Simon Brown, risk-taking.

Oct. 1988: Middleweight Terrorism: Iran Bombs The Hit Man. Color Pinup: Don Lalonde. Interview: Frank Bruno. Also: Roger Mayweather, Marvin Hagler.

Jan. 1989: The Troubled Times Of Mike Tyson. Color Pinup: Lloyd Honeyghan. Interview: Gil Clancy. Also: Meldrick Taylor, Jeff Fenech, Boxing's Champs.

Feb. 1989: George Foreman Is Born Again. Color Pinup: Meldrick Taylor. Interview: Bill Cayton. Also: The Olympics, Davey Hilton, John Mugabi, Barry McGuigan.

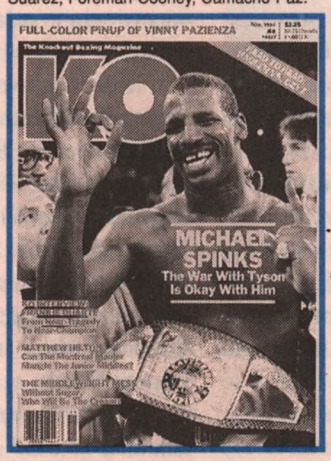
Sept. 1989: "I Beat Up Tyson Before, I'll Do It Again," by Carl Williams. Color Pinup: Michael Nunn. Also: Chavez-Mayweather, Brian Mitchell, Marv Albert.

Nov. 1989: The Real Duran; The Stories Behind The Legend. Color Pinup: Orlando Canizales. Interview: Mike Trainer. Also: Edwin Rosario, Rosi-Van Horn.

Feb. 1990: George Foreman Risks A Multimillion-Dollar Shot At Tyson. Color Pinup: Brian Mitchell. Interview: Riddick Bowe. Also: Simon Brown, Molina-Lopez, East vs. West.

May 1990: Chavez vs. Taylor: The Best Matchup In The Last Five Years. Color Pinup: Daniel Zaragoza. Interview: Pernell Whitaker. Also: Leonard-Hearns, Glenn McCrory, Prince Charles Williams.

June 1990: A Sugar-Free Future? Thomas Hearns Is Looking Up. Color Pinup: Glenn McCrory. Interview: Michael Moorer. Also: Matthew Hilton, Molina-Suarez, Foreman-Cooney, Camacho-Paz.



July 1990: KO Interview-Sugar Ray Leonard. Color Pinup: Jorge Paez. Also: Michael Nunn, Buster Douglas, Jibaro Perez, the Olympians.

Aug. 1990: Meldrick Taylor: Brilliance In Defeat. Color Pinup: Buster Douglas. Interview: Teddy Atlas. Also: Buddy McGirt, Dokes-Ruddock, Simon Brown.

Sept. 1990: KO Interview-Buster Douglas. Color Pinup: Macho Camacho. Also: Thomas Hearns, Nigel Benn, Greg Haugen, Boxing Hall of Fame.

Oct. 1990: Send In The Clown: Is Jorge Paez A Phenom Or A Fraud? Color Pinup: Paul Banke. Interview: Tony Lopez. Also: Chavez-Taylor II, Jesse Benavides.

Nov. 1990: The Comeback Of Mike Tyson: A Crooked Course Straight To The Top. Color Pinup: Tony Lopez. Interview: Don Dunphy. Also: Davis-Breland, Riddick Bowe, federal commission.

Dec. 1990: The Heart Of The Matter: Who Will Survive The Holyfield-Douglas War? Color Pinup: Terry Norris. Interview: Virgil Hill. Also: Michael Carbajal, Ruelas Brothers, Best Fighter Poll.

Jan. 1991: Macho Ado About Nothing? Why Hector Camacho Wants To Be Believed. Color Pinup: Meldrick Taylor. Interview: Irving Rudd. Also: Sugar Ray Leonard, Orlando Canizales, Vinny Pazienza.

Feb. 1991: 10 Fighters To Fear: Boxing's Most Destructive Hitters. Color Pinup: Razor Ruddock. Interview: Ray Mercer. Also: Roberto Duran, Saoul Mamby, Mills Lane, Sugar Ray Robinson.

May 1991: Ruddock Eyes The Big Upset Of Tyson. Color Pinup: Luisito Espinosa. Interview: Jeff Fenech. Also: Virgil Hill, Pernell Whitaker, Alex Ramos, Simon Brown, Buddy McGirt.

June 1991: Exclusive KO Interview: Evander Holyfield. Color Pinup: Raul Perez. Also: Norris-Leonard, Charles Williams, champs of 1971 vs. 1991, Chavez.

July 1991: Riddick Bowe: Is He Destined To Be Heavyweight Champ? Color Pinup: Michael Carbajal. Interview: Buddy McGirt. Also: Bobby Czyz, Buster Douglas, Mark Breland.

Aug. 1991: Desert Storm II: Will The Tyson-Ruddock Rematch Be Different? Color Pinup: Loreto Garza. Interview: Michael Carbajal. Also: Brown-Blocker, Fenech-Nelson preview, Harold Brazier, Yuh-Carbajal.

Sept. 1991: Remember Me? I Won The Fight! What "The Real Deal" Still Has To Deal With. Color Pinup: Ray Mercer. Interview: Eddie Futch. Also: Larry Holmes, southpaw heavyweights, Toney-Nunn, Brown-Taylor.

Oct. 1991: Thomas Hearns Works Another Miracle! Now There Are More Hills Left To Climb. Color Pinup: Humberto Gonzalez. Interview: Mike McCallum. Also: Norris-Curry, Richard Steele, Troy Dorsey.

Nov. 1991: Mike Tyson-The Only Heavyweight That Matters. Color Pinup: Thomas Hearns. Interview: Troy Dorsey. Also: Fenech-Nelson, James Toney, lost art of bodypunching.

Dec. 1991: Tyson vs. Holyfield-The Experts Analyze The Elements That Will Decide The Fight. Color Pinup: Joey Gamache. Also: Michael Moorer, Pernell Whitaker, Greg Richardson, Robert Quiroga.

Jan. 1992: The Tyson-Holyfield Showdown: An Exclusive Forecast By George Foreman. Color Pinup: Myung Woo Yuh. Also: Fenech-Nelson, TV announcers, boxing's toughest men, Toney-McCallum.

March 1992: KO Interview Mike Tyson: An In-Depth, Toe-To-Toe Talk With Boxing's Biggest Star. Color Pinup: Michael Moorer. Also: Thomas Hearns, Tracy Patterson, Larry Holmes, best fighter poll.

May 1992: Division-By-Division Faceoffs: The Best Of '92 vs. The Best Of '67. Color Pinup: James Warring. Interview: Hector Camacho. Also: Tommy Morrison, Bert Cooper, Gianfranco Rosi.

June 1992: If Not Tyson Or Holyfield, Then Who? Bowe? Moorer? Ruddock? Lewis? Mercer? Color Pinup: James Toney. Interview: Shelly Finkel. Also: Scott Olson, overrated and underrated fighters, Orlin Norris, Whitaker-Pineda.

July 1992: The Title Reign of Evander Holyfield: A Reason To Hide ... Or A Reason For Pride? Color Pinup: Buddy McGirt. Interview: Julian Jackson. Also: Kelley-Dorsey, Nelson-Fenech, Kennedy McKinney.

Aug. 1992: Bowe Knows The Big Fight: The Top Contender Analyzes Holmes-Holyfield. Color Pinup: Julian Jackson. Interview: Michael Spinks. Also: Thomas Hearns, Blue Horizon, fighting fear, Toney-Barkley, Greg Haugen.

Sept. 1992: Can Tommy Morrison Punch Out The Theory ... White Men Can't Fight. Color Pinup: Welcome Ncita. Interview: Ken Norton. Also: Reggie Johnson, Jimmy Paul, McGirt-Blocker, Ali-Shavers.

Oct. 1992: The Olympics: Golden Memories ... And Golden Futures? Color Pinup: Reggie Johnson. Interview: Bobby Czyz. Also: Genaro Hernandez, Terry Norris.

Nov. 1992: Foreman vs. Holmes: The Fight Evander Holyfield Should Have Prevented. Color Pinup: Iran Barkley. Interview: Joey Gamache. Also: Hector Camacho, Tracy Patterson, Rudy Zavala.

Dec. 1992: The Final Four: Ruddock vs. Lewis, Holyfield vs. Bowe. Color Pinup: Genaro Hernandez. Interview: Lennox Lewis. Also: Whitaker-Pineda, Bowe-Coetzer, Alex Stewart, Gamache-Lopez.

Jan. 1993: Holyfield vs. Bowe: Who Will Win and Why. Color Pinup: Al Cole. Interview: Vinny Pazienza. Also: James Toney, Terrence Alli, Maurice Blocker.

March 1993: Not Just Another English Muffin: Lennox Lewis Powers His Way Toward The Title. Color Pinup: Leeonzer Barber. Interview: Emanuel Steward. Also: Reggie Johnson, Lopez-Gamache, USA Network.

May 1993: Recapping The Future: Julio Cesar Chavez' Road To 100-0. Color Pinup: Terry Norris. Interview: Junior Jones. Also: Buddy McGirt, Riddick Bowe, Raul Marquez.

Dec. 1993: The KO Feud Rages On: "I Will Torture You!" Says Riddick Bowe To Lennox Lewis. Color Pinup: Kennedy McKinney. Also: Mississippi boxing, George Foreman, Yori Boy Campas , Carbajal-Kim, Morrison-Moorer.

Jan. 1994: Outrage At The Alamodome: "Sweet Pea" Shafted! Color Pinup: Orlando Canizales. Interview: Kennedy McKinney. Also: James Toney, book of lists, M.A. Barrera.

March 1994: Holyfield-Bowe II: Why It Was Different This Time. Color Pinup: Felix Trinidad. Also: Morrison-Bentt, Thomas Hearns, Don King, Michael Carbajal, Oscar De La Hoya.

June 1994: Frankie Randall Makes It Official! J.C. Chavez Is A Beaten Man. Color Pinup: Jose Luis Bueno. Also: Norris brothers, Felix Trinidad, Holyfield-Moorer preview, heroes to the stars.

July 1994: The Upset Epidemic! Carbajal's Conqueror: Chiquita Gonzalez. Color Pinup: Junior Jones. Interview: Rafael Ruelas. Also: Jake Rodriguez, Czyz-Hearns preview, Randall-Chavez II preview.

June 1995: The Tug-Of-War Over Mike Tyson. Color Pinup: Wilfredo Vasquez. Interview: Oliver McCall. Plus: Alejandro Gonzalez, Alexis Arguello, Kostya Tszyu.

March 1996: Whether He Fights Or Not ... Tyson Is Hot! Hot!! Hot!!! Color Pinup: Marco Antonio Barrera. Interview: Jose Sulaiman. Plus: Reggie Tuur, heavyweight prospects, champion's edge.

June 1996: Destined For The Hall Of Fame: Who's In, Who's Out. Color Pinup: Wayne McCullough. Interview: Cedric Kushner. Plus: Danny Romero, Mark Breland, Dynamite Dozen—the next 12.

July 1996: Awesome Again! Tyson Destroys Bruno. Color Pinup: Tyson-Bruno. Interview: Christy Martin. Plus: Chavez-De La Hoya preview, Derrick Gainer, '96 Hall of Fame inductees.

Aug. 1996 (Special 88-Page Edition): An Inside Look At Team Tyson—*KO* Talks With Trainer Jay Bright. Color Pinup: Naseem Hamed. Interview: Jay Bright. Plus: 1946 vs. 1996, William Guthrie, middleweights, young heavyweights.

Sept. 1996: Tyson vs. Seldon. Don't Bet On This Fight Until You've Read This Story! Color Pinup: Arturo Gatti. Interview: Butterbean. Plus: Dana Rosenblatt, '92 Olympians, McGuigan-Pedroza.

Nov. 1996 (Special 88-Page Edition): The *KO* 100. Color Pinup: Terry Norris. Interview: Bob Arum. Plus: Roy Jones, Roberto Duran, Joe Cortez.

Dec. 1996: Andrew Golota—Taking The Low Road to Stardom. Color Pinup: Mark Johnson. Interview: Rock Newman. Plus: De La Hoya-Gonzalez, Chuck Bodak, bizarre endings, Chavez-Rosario.

Winter 1996: This Is War! Holyfield-Tyson Will Be Explosive ... And Short. Color Pinup: Roy Jones. Interview: Bernard Hopkins. Plus: Riddick Bowe, David Reid, Holyfield-Qawi.

Jan. 1997 (Special 88-Page Edition): Bowe-Golota II: Hatred And Vengeance ... It's A Beautiful Thing! Color Pinup: Johnny Tapia. Interview: Lou Duva. Plus: Mouse Strauss, heavyweight rematches, Azumah Nelson.

Feb. 1997: KO's 1997 Wish List. Color Pinup: Ike Quartey. Interview: Naseem Hamed. Plus: David Tua, Felix Trinidad, Adolpho Washington, Bobby Czyz.

March 1997: Holyfield's Trainer Tells All! An Inside Look At The Upset Of The Year. Color Pinup: Vinny Pazienza. Interview: Sugar Ray Leonard. Plus: George Foreman, Lupe Pintor, boxing bill, Floyd Mayweather Jr.

Aug. 1997: Oscar Reaches ... But Can't Grasp The Stars. Color Pinup: Nate Miller. Interview: Hector Camacho. Plus: Norris-Trinidad preview, Hall of Fame, Angel Manfredy.

Sept. 1997: A Legitimate Grudge Match! Why Romero-Tapia Could Be The Fight Of The Year. Color Pinup: Oscar De La Hoya. Interview: David Tua. Plus: Ike Quartey, George Foreman, top promoters.

Nov. 1997: Filling In The Missing Pieces: What "The Bite" Means To Boxing. Color Pinup: Christy Martin. Interview: Jim Lampley. Plus: Vince Phillips, British prospects, Iran Barkley.

Dec. 1997: Johnny Tapia Outshines Danny Romero: The Defining Moment In A "Crazy Life." Color Pinup: Genaro Hernandez. Interview: Frans Botha. Plus: Lewis-Akiwande, Don King, Charles Brewer.

Holiday 1997 (Special 88-Page Edition): Holyfield-Moorer II: Can Evander Avenge His Ugliest Defeat? Color Pinup: Vince Phillips. Interview: Mills Lane. Plus: Roy Jones, Baby Jake Matlala, Boxing 2000.

Jan. 1998: De La Hoya Humbles The Macho Man: "Oscar's The Best I've Ever Fought." Color Pinup: William Guthrie. Interview: Mark Johnson. Plus: Johnny Tapia, Pinklon Thomas, defense.

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Maurice Harris

(Continued from page 59)

Late in '98, Harris signed a two-year, eight-fight deal with Top Rank. Now, with a big-time promoter behind him, Harris' future opportunities should match his abilities and potential. And he's ready for the future to start.

"I'll fight anybody. I ain't backing down from any challenge," Harris said. "I want to make it to the top, I want the heavyweight championship of the world. Lennox Lewis and Evander Holyfield have to step aside before long. I know the title has to change hands one day, and I want to be in position to fight for it. I want to fight Michael Grant, Ike Ibeabuchi, David Tua. Any one of those fights, it would be a hot fight. I know I'm better than all of them, I just need a chance to fight them. I just want to perform at levels that people don't think I can perform at."

"I'd love to fight Michael Grant with him, because Michael doesn't have much mobility," trainer Parks confidently agreed. "Lou Savarese was made for Grant, he was right in front of him, but Maurice can move. I don't see many people Maurice shouldn't fight. He has the speed and ability to adjust. The only one who would really be tough is Ibeabuchi, because he's a good, quick puncher without a noticeable flaw."

Naturally, Harris and Parks like their chances against the heavyweight division's best. But so do relatively unbiased observers like Steward, the Mayweathers, and HBO's unofficial scorer, Harold Lederman.

"He looked very good with Williams, and I don't think it had anything at all to do with Williams' chin," said Lederman, who was one of the judges who voted against Harris in his fight with Holmes. "He looked 100 percent better than he did against Holmes, when he gave away rounds by not punching. Considering the short notice he took the fight on, he looked great. He was very sharp, very busy. He's tall, he punches hard, and, boy, was he quick! There's no telling how far he can go. I think he'd be very competitive with Kirk Johnson, Lou Savarese, Chris Byrd, Andrew Golota, even Grant or Ibeabuchi. We'll put him back on HBO for sure, and he'll make a lot more money next time."

But before Harris returns to HBO, he's got other business to attend to. Harris, who dropped out of high school in 11th grade, was planning on spending his summer studying to get his GED. His return to the ring is scheduled for September 17, when he headlines an ESPN2 show on the eve of the Oscar De La Hoya-Felix Trinidad megafight. Then, Harris can start to think about another HBO date and his heavyweight title hopes.

Harris isn't the first fighter to try to make something of a career filled early on with nearly as many losses as wins. Freddie Pendleton was 32-17-4 when he won the IBF lightweight title in '93. Current junior middleweight contender Kirino Garcia of Mexico lost his first 18 fights before streaking to a record of 22-19-1 and a top-10 WBC ranking. Even the great Henry Armstrong lost three of his first four fights and continued to lose at least one fight a year until he became a world champion. Harris has gone a long way toward turning his career around, but chances are he'll lose at least another time or two before it's over. The only thing you can be confident of is that it won't be Maurice Harris that beats him. ■

Ayala-Tapia

(Continued from page 31)

the loss. And in un-Tapia-like fashion, he came up with a number of excuses for the decision. He immediately lashed out at promoter Top Rank, accusing them of somehow influencing the judges. Tapia alleged that since the fight marked the last one on his Top Rank contract, it was more beneficial to have Ayala, who is in the middle of his Top Rank deal, win.

"We offered other fighters to Johnny who were just as exciting that he could beat," Trampler said. "But Johnny insisted on fighting Ayala. He said, 'This is my first fight on pay-per-view, so I want to fight the best.'

"We offered him Famosito Gomez and some other guy. He goes 'Bruce, what do you think?' I said, 'Paulie is a tougher guy.' He said, 'Then that's who I want. Make that fight.' I looked at Teresa, and she just shrugged her shoulders. It wasn't like we shoved this down his throat. He didn't have to take this fight."

In his postfight tirade, Tapia stated he would never fight for Top Rank again.

"I guess he doesn't want a rematch," Top Rank President Bob Arum said. "He's upset. The kid loses his first fight, a close fight, and I guess he's gotta take it out on somebody."

Tapia, who backed down from his anti-Top Rank stance and met with Trampler three days after the fight, also claimed the distractions stemming from the police and his corner were a hindrance. But if that were the case, why did he unanimously win the first round by calmly picking Ayala apart? Tapia also mentioned that a cut on his left arm, suffered during training for the fight, bothered him.

"Johnny has never been an excuse-maker or an apologist," Trampler said. "So for him to say all these outside influences caused him to lose, he must really think he didn't lose."

Tapia told Trampler during their meeting that he had watched the fight four times on tape and still thought he had won. Now, Tapia's mission is to avenge his lone loss.

"I want a rematch," Tapia said. "I gave Mr. Ayala the opportunity to fight me, and I hope and pray he will give me the same opportunity as soon as next month. I'll fight him next week if I have to. All I want is a rematch so I can get my belt back."

Ayala was a bit cryptic in acknowledging Tapia's request for a rematch. In one breath he stated he will fight all comers, but in the next he dodged the issue.

"I'm willing to fight and do whatever," Ayala said during the Showtime teleconference. "I'll fight anywhere, anytime to get the competition. But it's all up to Top Rank. It's time for me to be compensated. That's the bottom line. Who wouldn't pay to see [a rematch]? As much as it's been blown up, it'd definitely be worth every penny."

Arum stated his desire to put a Tapia-Ayala rematch on a prospective October 2 card topped off by a featherweight bout between Naseem Hamed and either WBA champ Freddie Norwood or WBC king Cesar Soto. Ayala made a career-high $60,000 against Tapia, who earned $250,000. Ayala estimated he should be worth $500,000 in a rematch. But not long

after that conference call, Ayala explained how a second fight with Tapia would be useless.

"I can fight him 12 times, and the same thing will happen," Ayala told the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*. "The fight was close, but I've studied and know Johnny and how he fights. Regardless of how he changes his style, if he gets hit, he's going to come after you. And I'll definitely be hitting him. So he'll be coming after me.

"He knows I won the fight. It's hard for him to accept the loss, and I give him a lot of credit for wanting a rematch. But I think it definitely would end up the same way every time. Because not only would he train harder, I would, too."

And maybe next time, boxing fans would pay more attention to what has proven to be one of the most stirring matchups in recent boxing history. ■

Tim Graham is a freelance writer based in Las Vegas and a regular contributor to this magazine.

Byron Mitchell

(Continued from page 34)

Trawick, a funeral home director who consistently fields one of the best amateur teams in the region. One of Mitchell's amateur teammates was Ray Berry, now a fringe contender in the light heavyweight division. When Mitchell walked into the gym at age 15, he made a quick impression.

"I was so impressed with him, I thought he had boxed before," recalled Trawick, Mitchell's day-to-day trainer and confidant. "I asked him who taught him how to box. He said, 'My brother, Sharmba Mitchell.'"

Trawick met Mitchell's father after the fighter's first amateur fight, and asked him how the other Mitchell was doing.

"Who is Sharmba Mitchell?" the father asked. "Byron doesn't have a brother. He has two sisters."

"Byron heard the name, and he liked it," said Trawick. "I told him if he continued to improve, one day Sharmba Mitchell will claim you as *his* brother."

The two fighters met years later, and Trawick related the story to Sharmba Mitchell, who laughed. When the now WBA super lightweight champion finally saw Byron Mitchell fight professionally in Florida a couple of years ago, Trawick's prophecy came true.

"Sharmba was at ringside yelling, 'That's my brother, that's my brother,'" Trawick said. "They claim each other now."

Mitchell's power was legendary in the amateur ranks. He knocked an opponent out cold in Mississippi, and amateur officials dialed 911 to summon an ambulance to revive the other boxer. He was part of a Southeastern all-star team that fought against the French national team, where middleweight Mitchell was paired with the French 178-pound champion. Mitchell knocked him across the ring with a single right hand for a third-round stoppage.

J.C. Courreges, a Frenchman residing in Tallahassee, Florida, was in the audience that night. He took an avid interest in Mitchell and eventually signed on as his manager. Courreges, who is also part of Henry Akinwande's managerial team, now co-manages Mitchell with Carl King.

Mitchell got wide exposure as an amateur. Trawick took him to Pensacola to work with Roy Jones Sr. Mitchell also spent two years at Northern Michigan University as part of the Olympic development program, where he was trained by Al Mitchell, another unrelated namesake. After winning the '96 National Golden Gloves at 165 pounds, Mitchell was edged out in the Olympic Trials by Omar Sheika. He returned to Ozark and decided he was ready to try professional boxing. Trawick knew Mitchell had the raw ingredients to become a champion.

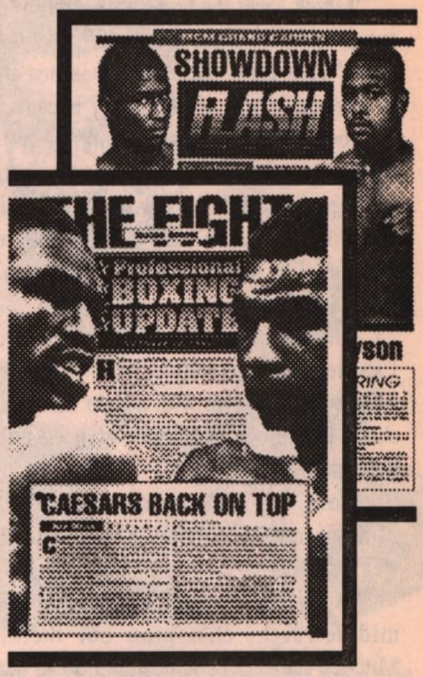
"He's always been a puncher," Trawick said. "From the beginning, anybody that ever got in the ring with him, he hurt them. They may win, but they got hurt. I've seen Byron knock people out with every punch in the book. He hits hard with both hands."

Winning the title was a team effort. Mitchell credits light heavyweight Antonio Tarver, with whom he sparred numerous rounds in preparing for Liles, and Trawick for their part in helping him get to the top.

"Johnny Trawick got me started," Mitchell said. "I have to give him a lot of credit. He taught me everything he knew, but he wasn't selfish. He let me go out with other coaches and go to other camps

(Continued on page 64)

Worldwide guide to pro boxing



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Byron Mitchell

(Continued from page 63)

and let me learn what they know. He's not just my coach, he's my companion."

Mitchell now wants to use his power to carve his own niche in the 168-pound ranks, starting with his old amateur nemesis.

"I think I was the best-kept secret in the super middleweight division," Mitchell said. "That fight with Liles was just the beginning. It was kind of ugly because I was behind, but I came through. Now I want Omar Sheika bad. That's my optimum goal. He didn't show me anything in the amateurs, but he's got a little power in the pros. I'm willing to test it. He doesn't stand a chance.

"I'm looking out for Thomas Tate, too. I sparred with him before, early in my pro career. I caught him with a right hand that shook him up real good. He stopped after two rounds."

Those who made their impressions of Mitchell in the Liles fight, he says, should stay tuned.

"In my eyes, Liles was the best super middleweight champion out there," Mitchell said. "If I can beat him, I can beat anybody. I'm going to stay ready for anything that comes my way."

And if he has to leave Alabama to get what he wants, he'll definitely come back home afterward. ■

Brewster Gym

(Continued from page 47)

The next wave of greatness to hit Brewster came in the late-'50s and early-'60s. Steward moved to Detroit at the age of 12 and began boxing at a local CYO gym. When that gym shut its doors, he went to Brewster, where trainers Jimmy Myland and Festus Trice were carrying on the fine boxing tradition. In 1959 and '60, Steward won junior Olympic titles, and in 1963 he won the National Golden Gloves.

"Brewster was always packed," recalled Steward. "You could go down there any day and see the best basketball players or watch the best fighters train. There was so much talent in that little area of Detroit. People were trying to work their way out of poverty by singing, boxing, or playing basketball. Boxing was still the sport for people trying to get out of the ghetto. Everyone wanted to make money and be the next Joe Louis. The NBA only had a few black players then. The only alternative was the Harlem Globetrotters, and they used to send scouts to watch the games at Brewster."

The 1960s produced Steward, Hedgemon Lewis, a future welterweight champion, and Al "Blue" Lewis, a heavyweight who challenged Muhammad Ali in July '72. Blue Lewis (no relation to Hedgemon) is now the head trainer at the Brewster-Wheeler Center.

"The Brewster Center is where I lived," said Lewis. "This is where I learned how to fight. I've been coming here since I was seven years old. Ali trained at the Brewster Center. He boxed me right in this ring. On the day we sparred, it was packed. You couldn't fit another person in the boxing room. There was a crowd throughout the entire projects."

Looking back, Steward marvels at the similarities between the gym of his youth and the gym he has turned into a national icon.

"The funny thing is that both Kronk and Brewster are small little gyms in the basement of city-run recreation centers," he said. "I had some wars down in that tiny little gym. I fought guys from Kronk when I used to train at Brewster. But there was never a rivalry because when Brewster was up, Kronk was down. When I was boxing for Brewster, sometimes we'd go all the way across town to Kronk just to go swimming because they had this big, beautiful swimming pool."

In the summer of '69, Steward's younger brother James arrived in Detroit with a desire to learn how to box. By this time, the closest gym to Steward's home was the John F. Kronk Recreation Center. Out of convenience, he began frequenting the Kronk Gym, and after five months, James won a Golden Gloves title. In '70, Steward entered a team of seven Kronk fighters in the Golden Gloves, and they each won a title, winning 21 consecutive bouts. The legend of the Kronk Gym had been born, and thus began the decline of the Brewster Center. Its last contender was '80s middleweight Dwight Davison, who beat the likes of Curtis Parker, Sugar Ray Seales, Willie "The Worm" Monroe, and Lindell Holmes.

"Kids go for success, and the Kronk boxing team is successful," said Smith. "Emanuel has a good program for kids. That's what the kids go for today. Blue Lewis is a good man. He has a few fighters, but it's not like it was back in the depression when kids were hungry. Kids are all together different now. The kids in that neighborhood don't go to the gym, they are mostly into basketball."

Indeed, Detroit Pistons star Grant Hill paid for the outdoor basketball courts to be repaved, and the Sacramento Kings' Chris Webber, who is from Detroit, made a donation for the indoor courts to be renovated. The boxing gym, though, has not been the beneficiary of such altruism. It is a dilapidated version of what Smith and his brother found way back in 1931. The equipment is run down, and the ring canvas is worn. The gym's most endearing trait is the mural of boxing legends Joe Louis, Muhammad Ali, Holman Williams, Blue Lewis, Festus Trice, Hedgemon Lewis, Luther Burgess, and others with a connection to the gym.

"Right now, things are slow," said Blue Lewis. "It's summer, and kids don't want to box in the summer. We have a few amateur fighters and one pro."

The lone pro is Corey "Prime Time" Johnson, a southpaw welterweight with a 28-2 record. He remains loyal to Brewster and Lewis, even though fighting under the Kronk banner may afford him better opportunities.

"We've lost a lot of good fighters over here to the streets," said Johnson. "If it wasn't for those streets, Blue Lewis would have three or four champions by now. I consider Kronk my second home. I've trained there. When I need sparring or someone over there needs sparring, I'll go to Kronk. Detroit fighters stick together."

Johnson finds the bleak surroundings of Brewster inspiring.

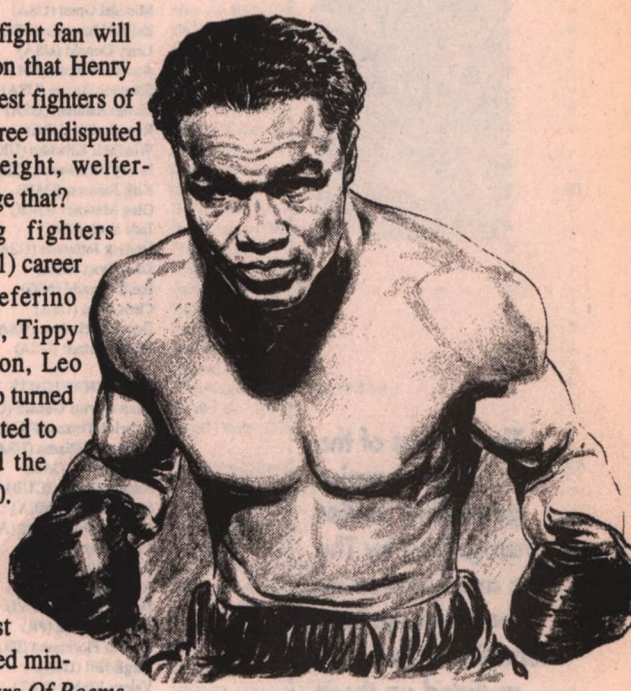
"It's wonderful to train here," he said. "Just knowing that fighters like Joe Louis and Al 'Blue' Lewis trained here makes me a better fighter. It makes me want to continue the legacy. I'm the only pro, and all the kids look up to me. I want that responsibility. I want to carry the torch."

It is a legacy that deserves to live well into the next century. ■

Robert Cassidy is the former associate editor of this magazine and the author of Muhammad Ali: The Greatest Of All-Time.

Boxing Collector's Notebook

By Don Scott



No boxing historian or old-time fight fan will have to be talked into the notion that Henry Armstrong was one of the greatest fighters of all-time. Most also know that he held three undisputed world titles—featherweight, lightweight, welterweight—at the same time. Can you image that?

Among the many outstanding fighters Armstrong beat during his 151-21-9 (101) career were Barney Ross, Lou Ambers, Ceferino Garcia, Chalky Wright, Lew Jenkins, Tippy Larkin, Baby Arizmendi, Petey Sarron, Leo Rodak, and Davey Day. Armstrong, who turned pro in 1931 and retired in '45, was elected to The Ring Hall of Fame in 1954 and the International Boxing Hall of Fame in '90.

In his autobiography, *Gloves, Glory, And God*, Armstrong detailed his fast living that led to alcoholism after he retired. His real comeback was against the bottle. Armstrong became an ordained minister in '51, and in '54 published *20 Years Of Poems, Moods, And Meditations*, a book of poetry that is startling in its sensitivity, especially when you remember "Homicide Hank's" all-out fighting style that defined the term "effective aggression." Both books are fairly easy to find, and usually cost around $30 to $35.

Besides his books, when Armstrong died in '88 at age 75, he left behind lots of autographs, and a slew of programs, tickets, stubs, press photos, posters, and cards for collectors to remember him by.

Many of Armstrong's important fights were held at Madison Square Garden, and as I've mentioned before, Garden programs are not hard to find—just specific Garden programs. The toughest to find and most sought after of Armstrong's are the fights in which he won his titles, especially the Sarron fight (KO 6) in '37 that earned Armstrong the 126-pound crown. Maybe the reason for its scarcity is that hardly anybody expected he would go on to win two more titles, and didn't bother to save the program. The next most revered Armstrong program is the first Fritzie Zivic fight (L 15), which has the added bonus of Ray Robinson making his pro debut on the undercard. Armstrong's second fight with Zivic (KO by 12) is also prized because it was the first boxing card held at the then-new Garden, the third of the four New York City venues to bear the famous name.

I have seen two versions of the poster for the first fight with Zivic, October 4, 1940, one mentioning Robinson, which was a half sheet, and the full-sheet poster that does not. The second Zivic bout poster and program look similar to those from the first fight, except the fighters exchange places. Examples of both posters were auctioned some years back for more than $1,500 each.

Armstrong is part of several card sets, including the '48 Leaf and '51 Ringside sets. He is also in several sets from other countries, the most common being the Churchman set that was produced in England. Press photographs of Armstrong are difficult to find, and original action photos from his career sell for $30 or more. I have not seen any of Armstrong's equipment lately, but you can calculate that a pair of fight-worn gloves would sell for approximately $3,000, providing it came with iron-clad provenance. ■

Don Scott is editor and publisher of Boxing Collectors News, and can be reached through his Web site, www.boxingcollectors.com, or at BCN, 3316 Luallen Dr., Carrollton, TX 75007.

WORLDWIDE RATINGS

The ratings of the three major governing bodies recognized by The Ring are supplied by the organizations themselves. They are updated on these pages as soon as they are made available to us. In this issue, the WBA ratings were compiled as of June 1999, the WBC as of June 1999, and the IBF as of May 1999.

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Lennox Lewis (GB)	C	–	–
Evander Holyfield (USA)	–	C	C
John Ruiz (USA)	1	2	3
David Tua (NZ)	2	–	1
Michael Grant (USA)	3	6	–
Zeljko Mavrovic (CROA)	4	11	–
Larry Donald (USA)	5	3	4
Andrew Golota (POL)	6	–	11
Shannon Briggs (USA)	7	–	–
Hasim Rahman (USA)	8	–	5
Ross Puritty (USA)	9	–	–
Wladimir Klitchko (UKR)	10	7	–
Henry Akinwande (GB)	14	1	6
Kirk Johnson (CAN)	–	4	8
Oleg Maskaev (UKR)	28	5	–
Jade Scott (USA)	13	8	–
Derrick Jefferson (USA)	30	9	–
Dick Ryan (USA)	–	10	–
Ike Ibeabuchi (NIG)	16	–	2
Chris Byrd (USA)	23	–	7
Danell Nicholson (USA)	–	–	9
Monte Barrett (USA)	19	–	10

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Juan Carlos Gomez (CUBA)	C	–	–
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	–	C	–
Arthur Williams (USA)	13	–	C
Dale Brown (CAN)	1	5	–
Ramon Garbey (CUB)	2	–	5
Saul Montana (MEX)	3	1	1
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	4	–	–
Terry Dunstan (GB)	5	–	9
Alexei Ilin (RUS)	6	9	–
Andre Purlette (GUY)	7	–	–
Stefan Anghern (SWI)	8	–	–
Alex Gonzalez (PR)	9	–	–
Samuel Florimond (FRA)	10	–	–
Virgil Hill (USA)	11	2	–
Valery Vikhor (LAT)	–	3	–
Akim Tafer (FRA)	–	4	–
Stefan Anghern (SWI)	–	6	–
Imamu Mayfield (USA)	14	7	6
Alexander Gurov (UKR)	–	8	–
Ezequiel Paixao (BRA)	–	10	–
Alex Gonzales (USA)	–	–	2
Stefan Anghern (SWI)	–	–	3
Vassiliy Jirov (KAZ)	–	–	4
Gary Wilcox (USA)	–	–	7
Ken Murphy (USA)	18	12	8
Adolpho Washington (USA)	–	–	10

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Roy Jones (USA)	C	C	–
Reggie Johnson (USA)	8	–	C
Michael Nunn (USA)	1	9	–
Montell Griffin (USA)	2	–	–
David Telesco (USA)	3	2	4
Hisashi Teraji (JAP)	4	–	–
Muhammad Siluvangi (ZAI)	5	–	5
Clinton Woods (GB)	6	10	–
Eric Harding (USA)	7	4	10
Lou Del Valle (USA)	9	3	3
Eddy Smulders (HOL)	10	–	–
Richard Hall (USA)	–	1	–
Derrick Harmon (USA)	17	5	6
Glenn Kelly (AUSTRL)	16	6	8
Timo Masua (NZ)	–	7	–
Rogerio Lobo (BRA)	–	8	–
Antonio Tarver (USA)	12	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Will Taylor (USA)	–	–	7
Ray Berry (USA)	19	–	9

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Richie Woodhall (GB)	C	–	–
Byron Mitchell (USA)	–	C	6
Sven Ottke (GER)	–	–	C
Glenn Catley (GB)	1	–	–
Eric Lucas (CAN)	2	4	–
Thomas Tate (USA)	3	3	1
Bruno Girard (FRA)	4	1	–
David Starie (GB)	5	5	9
Zafarou Ballogou (TOGO)	6	11	3
Dean Francis (GB)	7	–	12
Mario Velt (GER)	8	8	11
Frank Liles (USA)	9	2	–
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	10	–	–
Jorge Castro (ARG)	–	6	–
Manuel Siacca (PR)	–	7	–
Frederic Alvarez (FRA)	–	9	–
Craig Cummings (USA)	–	10	8
Charles Brewer (USA)	–	–	2
Rick Thornberry (AUST)	–	–	4
Omar Sheika (USA)	14	–	5
Bryant Brannon (USA)	–	–	7
Sam Leuii (AUSTRL)	–	–	10

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Keith Holmes (USA)	C	–	–
William Joppy (USA)	–	C	–
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	–	–	C
Robert McCracken (GB)	1	5	3
Antwun Echols (USA)	2	–	–
Hassine Cherifi (FRA)	3	–	–
Kevin Palmer (USA)	4	–	–
Giovanni Pretorius (SA)	5	4	4
Davey Hilton (CAN)	6	11	–
Erland Betare (FRA)	7	–	–
Davide Ciarlante (ITA)	8	–	–
Howard Eastman (GB)	9	6	–
Dana Rosenblatt (USA)	10	10	–
Rito Ruvalcaba (MEX)	–	1	9
Antwun Echols (USA)	–	2	–
Winky Wright (USA)	–	3	–
Darren Obah (AUSTRL)	–	7	–
Ramon Moyano (ARG)	22	8	–
Sikat Pasarib (IND)	–	9	–
Antwun Echols (USA)	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Brian Barbosa (USA)	13	–	5
Robert McCracken (GB)	–	–	6
Robert Allen (USA)	15	–	7
Lansana Djallo (JUI)	–	–	8
Syd Vanderpool (CAN)	27	–	10

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Francisco Castillejo (SPA)	C	–	–
David Reid (USA)	–	C	–
Fernando Vargas (USA)	–	–	C
Tony Marshall (USA)	1	–	–
Mamadou Thiam (FRA)	2	2	–
Keith Mullings (USA)	3	–	–
Laurent Boudouani (FRA)	4	4	–
Rodney Jones (USA)	5	6	–
Anthony Jones (USA)	6	10	–
Manny Sobral (CAN)	7	–	–
Roman Karmazin (RUS)	8	9	–
Quirino Garcia (MEX)	9	–	–
Akira Ohigashi (JAP)	10	–	–
Kevin Kelly (USA)	–	1	–
Pedro Ortega (MEX)	–	3	–
Jose Luis Lopez (MEX)	–	5	–
Javier Castillo (PAN)	–	7	–
Raul Frank (GUY)	–	8	–
Winky Wright (USA)	11	–	1
Ross Thompson (USA)	–	–	2
Earnie Artango (AUSTRL)	25	–	3
Raul Marquez (USA)	–	–	4
Carl Daniels (USA)	14	12	5
Yory Boy Campas (MEX)	12	–	6
Carlos Gerena (PR)	–	–	7
Emmett Linton (USA)	–	11	8
Sergio Luciano (BRA)	–	–	9
Derrick Graham (USA)	–	–	10

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Oscar De La Hoya (USA)	C	–	–
James Page (USA)	–	C	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	–	C
Derrell Coley (USA)	1	–	4
Shannan Taylor (AUSTRL)	2	4	–
Ike Quartey (GHA)	3	7	5
Vernon Forrest (USA)	4	6	3
Nicolas Cervera (COL)	5	10	–
Hector Camacho Jr (USA)	6	–	–
Oba Carr (USA)	7	8	8
Jose Luis Lopez (MEX)	8	–	–
Kofi Jantuah (GHA)	9	–	–
Alessandro Duran (ITA)	10	–	–
Vacant	–	1	–
Andrew Lewis (GUY)	24	2	–
Michael Trabant (GERE)	27	3	–
Andrei Pestraiev (RUS)	–	5	–
Carlos Baldomir (ARG)	11	9	–
Hugo Pineda (COL)	–	–	1
Raul Frank (USA)	–	–	2
Michael Covington (USA)	–	–	6

Vincent Pettway (USA)	–	–	7
Leonard Townsend (USA)	–	–	9
Maxim Nesterenko (RUS)	18	–	10

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Vacant	C	1	–
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	–	C	–
Terron Millett (USA)	–	–	C
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	1	–	–
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	2	9	–
Lawrence Ngobeni (SA)	3	12	–
Diobelis Hurtado (CUB)	4	–	–
Oktay Urkal (TUR)	5	–	–
Jongkil Kim (KOR)	6	–	–
Terrance Cauthen (USA)	7	–	–
Vince Phillips (USA)	8	–	6
Mikhail Krivolapov (RUS)	9	–	–
Ahmed Santos (USA)	10	–	–
Fred Pendleton (USA)	23	2	7
Elio Ortiz (VEN)	–	3	11
Junichi Ono (JAP)	–	4	–
Virgil McClendon (USA)	–	5	8
Thomas Damgaard (DEN)	16	6	–
Reggie Green (USA)	15	7	–
Hector Camacho Jr (PR)	–	8	9
Khalid Rahilou (FRA)	–	10	–
Zab Judah (USA)	–	–	1
Shane Mosley (USA)	–	–	2
Cesar Leiva (ARG)	20	–	3
Emanuel Burton (USA)	18	–	4
Jan Bergman (SA)	–	–	5
Alex Carillo (COL)	–	–	10

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Steve Johnston (USA)	C	–	–
Julien Lorcy (FRA)	–	C	–
Vacant	–	–	C
Billy Schwer (GB)	1	5	9
Cesar Bazan (MEX)	2	–	–
Daomai Sithkodam (THAI)	3	–	–
Hiroyuki Sakamoto (JAP)	4	–	–
Lovemore Ndou (SA)	5	–	7
Aldo Rios (ARG)	6	–	–
Israel Cardona (USA)	7	3	1
Yong Soo Choi (KOR)	8	–	–
Rick Yoshimura (JAP)	9	4	–
Victoriano Damian Sosa (DR)	10	–	–
Gilbert Serrano (VEN)	–	1	–
Alberto Sicurella (ARG)	12	2	–
Jean-Baptiste Mendy (FRA)	11	6	–
Djamel Lifa (FRA)	15	7	–
Golden Johnson (USA)	–	8	–
Edil Martinez (USA)	–	9	–
Oscar Garcia Cano (SPA)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	2
Paul Spadafora (USA)	–	–	3
John Lark (USA)	–	–	4
Lawrence Ngobeni (SA)	–	–	5
Goyo Vargas (MEX)	–	–	6
Renato Cornett (AUS)	–	–	8
Angel Manfredy (USA)	–	–	10

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Floyd Mayweather (USA)	C	–	–
Lakva Sim (MON)	–	C	–
Robert Garcia (USA)	–	–	C
Jesus Chavez (USA)	1	–	–
Goyo Vargas (MEX)	2	–	–
Derrick Gainer (USA)	3	–	2
Sirimongkol Singmanassuk (THAI)	4	–	–
Kengo Nagashima (JAP)	5	10	–
Carlos Gerena (PR)	6	6	5
Dennis Holbaek (DEN)	7	4	–
Tiger Ari (PHIL)	8	–	–
Diego Corrales (USA)	9	3	1
Angel Manfredy (USA)	10	–	–
Joel Casamayor (CUB)	–	1	3
Yong Soo Choi (KOR)	–	2	–
Yodsanan Nanthachai (THAI)	–	5	–
Edson Xuxa Nacimento (BRA)	–	7	–
Takanori Hatakeyama (JAP)	–	8	–
Tontcho Tontchev (BUL)	22	9	–
Robbie Peden (AUSTRL)	–	–	4
Jaime Rangel (COL)	–	–	6
Ramon Ledon (CUBA)	–	–	7
John Brown (USA)	–	–	8
Elmer Reales (COL)	–	–	9
Calvin Davis (USA)	–	–	10

FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Cesar Soto (MEX)	C	–	11
Fred Norwood (USA)	–	C	–
Manuel Medina (MEX)	–	–	C
Juan Manuel Marquez (MEX)	1	9	–
Luisito Espinosa (PHIL)	2	6	–
Takeo Imaoka (JAP)	3	–	–
Guty Espadas (MEX)	4	–	–
Injin Chi (KOR)	5	–	–
Takashi Koshimoto (JAP)	6	–	–
Pablo Chacon (ARG)	7	4	–
Edgar Barcenas (MEX)	8	–	–
Istvan Kovacs (HUN)	9	8	–
Carlos Rios (ARG)	10	–	–
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	22	1	–
Frederic Perez (FRA)	16	2	–
Derrick Gainer (USA)	–	3	–
Victor Polo (COL)	–	5	5
Angel Vasquez (PR)	–	7	3
Lewis Wood (USA)	11	10	–
Vuyani Bungu (SA)	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Mbulelo Botile (SA)	–	–	4
Steve Robinson (GB)	–	–	6
Tony Wehbee (AUS)	15	–	7
Jesus Chavez (USA)	–	–	8
Tracy Patterson (USA)	–	–	9
Hector Lizarraga (USA)	–	–	10

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Erik Morales (MEX)	C	–	–
Nestor Garza (MEX)	–	C	–
Vacant	–	–	C
Reynante Jamili (PHIL)	1	10	–
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	2	–	–
Michael Brodie (GB)	3	7	5
Ariston Clayton (USA)	4	–	6
Willie Jorrin (USA)	5	–	–
Jesus Salud (USA)	6	–	–
Sergei Devakov (UKR)	7	–	–
Kozo Ishii (JAP)	8	–	–
Oscar Larios (MEX)	9	–	–
John Johnson (USA)	10	8	3
Yobert Ortega (VEN)	30	1	–
Richard Carrillo (VEN)	–	2	–
Bugiarso (INDO)	–	3	–
Enrique Sanchez (MEX)	15	4	–
Carlos Barreto (VEN)	–	5	–
Vladislav Antonov (RUS)	29	6	8
Guty Espadas (MEX)	–	9	–
Lehlo Ledwaba (SA)	–	–	1
Ernesto Gray (COL)	–	–	2
Andrian Kaspari (INDO)	–	–	4
Jason Pires (USA)	–	–	7
Danny Romero (USA)	14	–	9
Salim Medjkoune (FRA)	11	–	10

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Veerapol Sahaprom (THAI)	C	–	–
Paul Ayala (USA)	–	C	–
Tim Austin (USA)	–	–	C
Adan Vargas (MEX)	1	3	6
Dario Azuaga (PAR)	2	–	5
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	3	–	–
Hugo Dianzo (MEX)	4	–	–
Cuauhtemoc Gomez (MEX)	5	7	–
Jess Maca (PHIL)	6	–	–
Gerardo Martinez (MEX)	7	–	–
Cruz Carbajal (MEX)	8	–	–
Nana Konadu (GHA)	9	2	4
Wethya Sakmuangklang (THAI)	10	–	–
Sahoiu Sithchai Condo (THAI)	–	1	–
Johnny Tapia (USA)	–	4	–
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	12	5	–
Jose Luis Valbuena (VEN)	–	6	–
Kozo Ishii (KOR)	–	8	–
Rafael Marquez (MEX)	20	9	–
Eidy Moya (VEN)	–	10	–
Bernardo Mendoza (CHI)	–	–	1
Jesus Perez (COL)	23	–	2
Jose Mendoza (COL)	–	–	3
Mauricio Martinez (PAN)	–	–	7
Albert Resilay (INDO)	–	–	8
Jorge Otero (COL)	–	–	9
Francisco Espita (USA)	–	–	10

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
In Joo Cho (KOR)	C	–	–
Jesus Rojas (VEN)	–	C	–
Mark Johnson (USA)	–	–	C
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	1	–	11
Luis Bolanos (COL)	2	9	–
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	3	10	–
Akihigo Nago (JAP)	4	5	–
Eric Morel (USA)	5	3	3
Raffy Montalban (PHIL)	6	–	–
Yokthai Sithoar (THAI)	7	1	–
Heriberto Ruiz (MEX)	8	–	–
Pone Saengmorokot (THAI)	9	–	–
Genaro Garcia (MEX)	10	–	–
Saen Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	–	2	–
Dario Azuaga (PAR)	–	4	–
Felix Machado (VEN)	–	6	10
Evangelo Perez (PAN)	–	7	8
Sornpichai Kratchingdaeng (THAI)	–	8	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Ratanachai Sor Voraphin (THAI)	19	12	4
Ernesto Briceno (VEN)	–	–	5
Libaniel Alvarez (COL)	–	–	6
Ubadel Soto (COL)	–	–	7
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	–	–	9

FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Manny Pacquiao (PHIL)	C	–	–
Leo Gamez (VEN)	–	C	–
Irene Pacheco (COL)	–	–	C
Chatchai Sasakul (THAI)	1	–	–
David Guerault (FRA)	2	5	1
Alex Ali Baba (GHA)	3	–	–
Oscar Arciniega (MEX)	4	–	–
Gabriel Mira (MEX)	5	–	–
Alejandro Montiel (MEX)	6	8	–
Panieng Sasiprabha Okuda (THAI)	7	–	–
Mike Trejo (USA)	8	9	6
Dimitri Kirilov (RUS)	9	–	–
Isidro Garcia (USA)	10	–	–
Jose Bonilla (VEN)	–	1	–
Gilberto Gonzalez (VEN)	–	2	10
Denkaosaen Kaowitch (THAI)	–	3	–
Jesper Jensen (DEN)	–	4	–
Panieng Okuda (THAI)	–	6	–
Hugo Soto (ARG)	–	7	–
Gabriel Munoz (MEX)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	2
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	–	–	3
Pedro Alcazar (PAN)	–	–	4
Manuel Herrera (USA)	–	–	5
Yodchingchai Sornthong (THAI)	–	–	7
Pedro Pena (USA)	–	–	8
Angel Priolo (COL)	–	–	9

JR. FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	C	–	–
Pichitnol C. Siriwat (THAI)	–	C	–
Will Grigsby (USA)	–	–	C
Yosam Choi (KOR)	1	10	–
Rosendo Alvarez (NIC)	2	1	2
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	3	4	–
Hidenobu Honda (JAP)	4	3	–
Osvaldo Guerrero (MEX)	5	–	9
Gabriel Munoz (MEX)	6	–	–
Bebis Mendoza (COL)	7	–	–
Ladislao Vazquez (MEX)	8	–	–
Ridchichai Kiatprabhas (THAI)	9	–	–
Oscar Andrade (MEX)	10	–	12
Medngon 3K Battery (THAI)	–	2	–
Pongsaklek Nakornton (THAI)	–	5	–
Nelson Dieppa (DR)	17	6	8
Yura Dimas (MON)	–	7	–
Jose Sanjuanelo (COL)	–	8	–
Jake Matlala (SA)	–	9	–
Pedro Rodriguez (COL)	–	–	1
Fernando Montiel (MEX)	–	–	3
Gill Ikeda (JAP)	–	–	4
Anis Roga (INDO)	–	–	5
Ratanapol Sor Vorapin (THAI)	–	–	6
Asdrubal Velasquez (COL)	–	–	7
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	–	–	10

STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	C	–
Zolani Petelo (SA)	–	–	C
Jose Antonio Aguirre (MEX)	1	11	–
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	2	–	2
Daniel Reyes (COL)	3	8	9
Luis Lazarte (ARG)	4	–	1
Satoru Abe (JAP)	5	5	–
Jun Arlos (PHIL)	6	–	–
Erdene Chuluun (MON)	7	–	–
Yasuo Tokimitsu (JAP)	8	–	–
Joma Gamboa (PHIL)	9	7	–
Udomdet Porpaoin (THAI)	10	9	–
Jose Garcia (COL)	–	1	3
Noel Arumbulet (VEN)	–	2	–
Songkram Porpaoin (THAI)	–	3	–
Hurricane Chulun (IND)	–	4	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	6	–
Hiroshi Matsumoto (JAP)	20	10	–
Mickey Cantwell (GB)	–	–	4
Faisol Akbar (INDO)	–	–	5
Rocky Palma (JAP)	–	–	6
Jose Laureano (PR)	–	–	7
Mongol Chareon (THAI)	–	–	8
Denkaosan Kaowichit (THAI)	–	–	10

RING CLASSIC

THE WHITE HOPES

Johnson's Winning Title Spawned A Fantastic Era

By Jersey Jones

This is the story of the White Hopes, the chronicle of the most fantastic era in the history of professional boxing.

Much has been written about this hectic, at times dramatic, and at other times comic, interlude. However, its complete story never has been told and could not be fitted within the confines of a book of 300 pages. It was "The Incredible Age," which led boxing into the "Golden Era" of Tex Rickard and million dollar gates.

The story of the "White Hope Era" is all the more fantastic because the man whose retirement from the ring led to its development became a White Hope himself. This fighter was James J. Jeffries, who after "retiring" in March 1905, carried the standard of the Caucasians into an ill-advised and badly executed comeback effort against the Negro Jack Johnson in Reno, Nevada, on July 4, 1910.

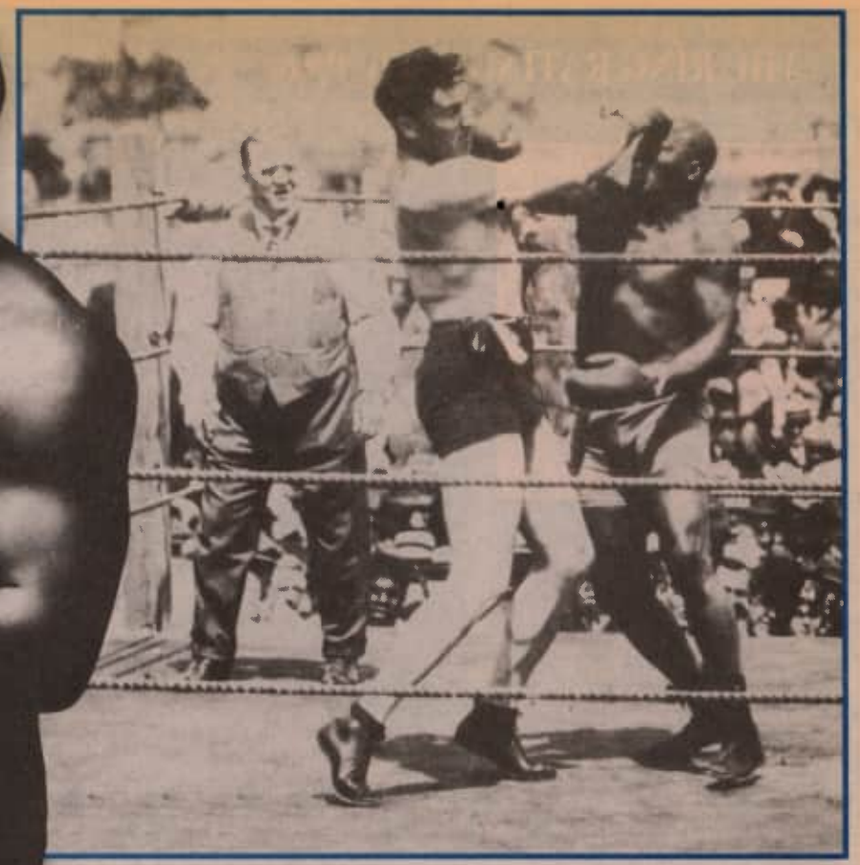
Jeffries, who at no time in this sorry 15-round affair had a real chance, was knocked down thrice, and out. Referee Rickard, the promoter, stumbled and fumbled around the sun-baked ring while Jack and Jim wrestled through most of the 44 minutes of dull combat. Jeffries, at 35, had been out of competition for six years and at one time weighed more than 300 pounds. He entered the ring at 227.

The most exciting stage of the White Hope Era was contained in the five years from 1910, when Johnson, the first Negro to win the heavyweight title, stopped Jeffries, to 1915, when Jess Willard knocked out Johnson in the 26th round at Havana. That Johnson actually was unconscious at the close still is being debated.

A photograph of the knockout shows Johnson shading his eyes and lifting his legs off the hot canvas. Maybe Jack had run out of gas. Maybe he did get that chunk of money from gamblers who had bet on Jess, the 8-5 underdog. Willard himself never has been accused of complicity in a deal. It is noted, in the camera shot of the knockout, that referee Jack Welch did not force Willard to go to a neutral corner. Willard is standing over his victim.

Actually, the White Hope campaign began to stew up in 1909. On

From THE RING, July 1966

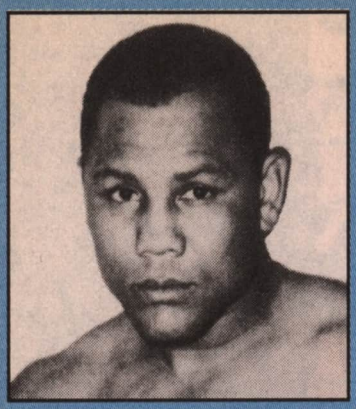


The Caucasian populace found the man they hoped would topple Johnson in the large, oafish Jess Willard. There was reason to believe during the bout that Willard would fail just as those before him had, as Johnson lands a right in the 20th round of their historic fight in Havana, Cuba.

Jack Johnson sent shockwaves across the world by beating Tommy Burns to become the first black heavyweight champion. Johnson's victory spawned a campaign for a "White Hope" to wrest the crown away from the brash-talking "Galveston Giant."

Willard finally closed the "White Hope Era" by bringing down Johnson in the 26th round. There is still some debate today over whether or not Johnson took a dive. This photo shows Johnson shielding his eyes from the sun and lifting his legs off the hot canvas.

THE RING RATINGS, July 1966



Jose Torres

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Cassius Clay, Louisville, KY
1. **Ernie Terrell**, Chicago, IL
2. **Doug Jones**, New York, NY
3. **Thad Spencer**, Portland, OR
4. **Henry Cooper**, England
5. **Zora Folley**, Chandler, AZ
6. **Karl Mildenberger**, Germany
7. **Amos Lincoln**, Portland, OR
8. **George Chuvalo**, Toronto, Ontario
9. **Floyd Patterson**, Great Neck, NY
10. **Cleveland Williams**, Houston, TX

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Jose Torres, Puerto Rico
1. **Wayne Thornton**, Fresno, CA
2. **Chic Calderwood**, Scotland
3. **Piero Del Papa**, Italy
4. **Eddie Cotton**, Seattle, WA
5. **Johnny Persol**, Brooklyn, NY
6. **Bob Foster**, Washington, D.C.
7. **Roger Rouse**, San Jose, CA
8. **Andre Selpa**, Argentina
9. **Giulio Rinaldi**, Italy
10. **Jack Rodgers**, Pittsburgh, PA

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Emile Griffith, New York, NY
1. **Dick Tiger**, Nigeria
2. **Nino Benvenuti**, Italy
3. **Sandro Mazzinghi**, Italy
4. **Luis Folledo**, Spain
5. **Jose Gonzalez**, New York, NY
6. **Don Fullmer**, West Jordan, UT
7. **Gomeo Brennan**, Bahamas
8. **Joey Archer**, New York, NY
9. **Stan Harrington**, Honolulu, HI
10. **Blair Richardson**, Nova Scotia

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Emile Griffith, New York, NY
1. **Jean Josselin**, France
2. **Luis Rodriguez**, Miami Beach, FL
3. **Ted Whitfield**, Amherst, MA
4. **Brian Curvis**, Wales
5. **Manuel Gonzalez**, Odessa, TX
6. **Percy Manning**, Philadelphia, PA
7. **Eddie Pace**, Los Angeles, CA
8. **Makoto Watanabe**, Japan
9. **Curtis Cokes**, Dallas, TX
10. **Conny Rudhof**, Germany

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Sandro Lopopolo, Italy
1. **Carlos Hernandez**, Venezuela
2. **Jose Napoles**, Mexico
3. **Paul Fujii**, Honolulu, HI
4. **Pierro Brandi**, Italy
5. **Willi Quatuor**, Germany
6. **Daniel Guanin**, Ecuador
7. **Eugenio Espinoza**, Ecuador
8. **Adolph Pruitt**, St. Louis, MO
9. **Eddie Perkins**, Chicago, IL
10. **Marcel Cerdan II**, France

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Carlos Ortiz, New York, NY
1. **Gabriel "Flash" Elorde**, Philippines
2. **Nicolino Locche**, Argentina
3. **Ismael Laguna**, Panama
4. **Ray Adigun**, Nigeria
5. **Maurice Cullen**, England
6. **Sugar Ramos**, Mexico
7. **Angel Robinson Garcia**, Cuba
8. **Paul Armstead**, Los Angeles, CA
9. **Percy Hayles**, Jamaica
10. **Frankie Narvaez**, New York, NY

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Gabriel "Flash" Elorde, Philippines
1. **Carlos "Teo" Cruz**, Dominican Republic
2. **Kid Tano**, Spain
3. **Jose Legra**, Cuba
4. **Rene Barrientos**, Philippines
5. **Johnny Bizzarro**, Erie, PA
6. **Jean De Keers**, Belgium
7. **Alfonso Frazier**, Panama
8. **Johnny Famechon**, Australia
9. **Love Allotey**, Ghana
10. **Kang Suh Il**, Korea

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Vicente Saldivar, Mexico
1. **Howard Winstone**, Wales
2. **Mitsunori Seki**, Japan
3. **Carlos Canete**, Argentina
4. **Richard Sue**, Portland, OR
5. **Raul Rojas**, San Pedro, CA
6. **Bobby Valdez**, San Diego, CA
7. **Hiroshi Kobayashi**, Japan
8. **Yves Desmarets**, France
9. **Alex Benitez**, San Jose, CA
10. **Ricardo Moreno**, Mexico

BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ: Fighting Harada, Japan
1. **Alan Rudkin**, England
2. **Jesus Pimental**, Los Angeles, CA
3. **Bernardo Caraballo**, Colombia
4. **Eder Jofre**, Brazil
5. **Tommaso Galli**, Italy
6. **Katsuo Saito**, Japan
7. **Joe Medel**, Mexico
8. **Valdomiro Pinto**, Brazil
9. **Baby Lorona**, Philippines
10. **Yoshi Nakane**, Japan

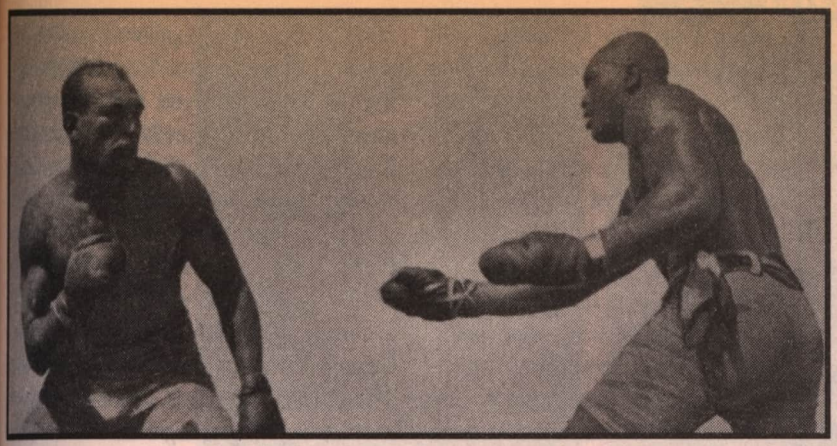
FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Salvatore Burruni, Italy
1. **Horacio Accavallo**, Argentina
2. **Walter McGowan**, Scotland
3. **Hiroyuki Ebihara**, Japan
4. **Puntip Keosuriya**, Thailand
5. **Kiyoshi Tanabe**, Japan
6. **Katsutoshi Takayama**, Japan
7. **Pone Kingpetch**, Thailand
8. **Rene Libeer**, France
9. **Efren Torres**, Mexico
10. **Thongchai Supasamuth**, Thailand

December 26, 1908, at Sydney, Australia, Johnson achieved leading claim to the championship when he beat Tommy Burns. The police stopped the uneven match in the 14th.

After Jeffries had announced his retirement in March 1905, he did something he had no right to do. He nominated Marvin Hart and Jack Root to fight it out for the title. With Jeffries as referee, at Reno on July 3, 1905, Hart, 190, stopped the 171-pound Root in 12 rounds.

On February 23, 1906, at Los Angeles, Burns outpointed Hart in a 20-round fight, with Jeffries as referee. Burns announced himself as the world champion and set out on a world-wide campaign in which he beat Jim Flynn, Philadelphia Jack O'Brien, Bill Squires (thrice), Gunner Moir, Jack Palmer, Jem Roche, Jewey Smith, and Bill Lang, hardly an iridescent group.

Then came Burns' fight with Johnson, when Johnson became the champion. The idea of having a Negro king of the boxing



Prior to Willard beating Johnson, the campaign for a White Hope brought former heavyweight champ Jim Jeffries out of retirement. Many whites felt Jeffries could beat Johnson easily. They were sadly mistaken, as Johnson tore Jeffries apart over 15 rounds.

world did not rest well with many Caucasian followers of the game. Johnson could find no white protagonists more formidable than Vic McLaglen, movie hero-to-be, O'Brien, Tony Ross, Al Kaufman, and the greatly outweighed Stan Ketchel.

"Jeffries could whip this guy with one arm tied behind his back," the white redhots insisted, and soon the plot thickened—and sickened. Friends of Jeffries induced him to come out of retirement, fight Johnson, and "recover the championship for the White Race."

Nowadays, boxing enthusiasts, no matter of what race, creed, or color, accept champions for what they do in the ring. The Cassius Clay situation has to be recognized as *sui generis*. But in 1910, the fact that a Negro had won the title created disturbances all over the USA. In Chicago, focus of the trouble, there was bloodshed. In New York, Negroes were hauled off streetcars and beaten up.

As the undisputed champion, Johnson saw little action and had only meager chances to cash in. The fact that he was married to a white woman helped him little with Caucasian followers of boxing and created considerable resentment among his own people. The White Hope Era was on in dead earnest.

On July 4, 1912, Johnson beat Jim Flynn in nine rounds at Las Vegas, New Mexico, when the police stopped the fight. On November 28, 1913, he stopped Andre Sproul in the second heat in Paris. December 19, 1913, saw Johnson fight a 10-round draw with Jim Johnson in Paris. On June 27, 1914, with France moving into a world war, Johnson beat Frank Moran in a 20-rounder in Paris. Neither fighter got paid. A harassed French government grabbed the receipts.

In the United States, Department of Justice operatives were waiting to grab Johnson on a charge involving the Mann Act, which prohibited taking a woman across state lines for immoral purposes. The charge was trumped up. The Mann Act was a joke.

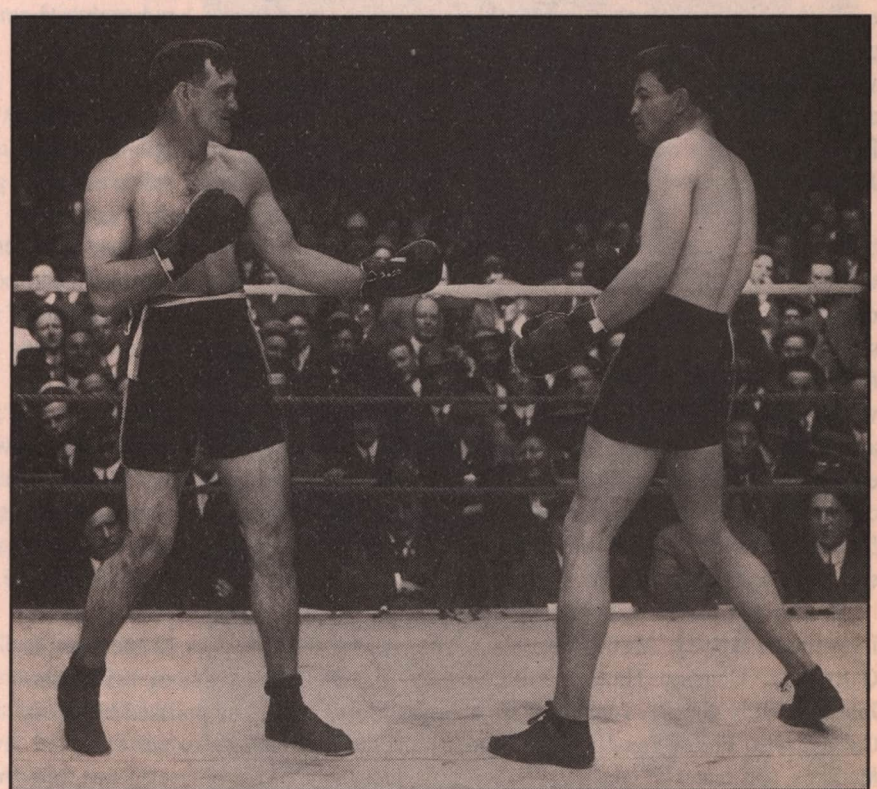
Johnson went down to Buenos Aires, where he stopped Jack Murray in a joke "fight" in three rounds. Then came the hatching of the scheme to match Johnson with big Jess Willard in Havana. Jack Curley was the hatcher. Harry Frazee, who was to buy the Red Sox and sell Babe Ruth to the Yankees, was a Broadway producer of musical comedy in those days. He was drawn into the scheme by Curley.

On April 5, 1915, at Oriental Park race track in Havana, the 33-year-old Willard beat the 37-year-old Johnson, and in so far as the heavyweight championship of the world was concerned, closed the White Hope Era.

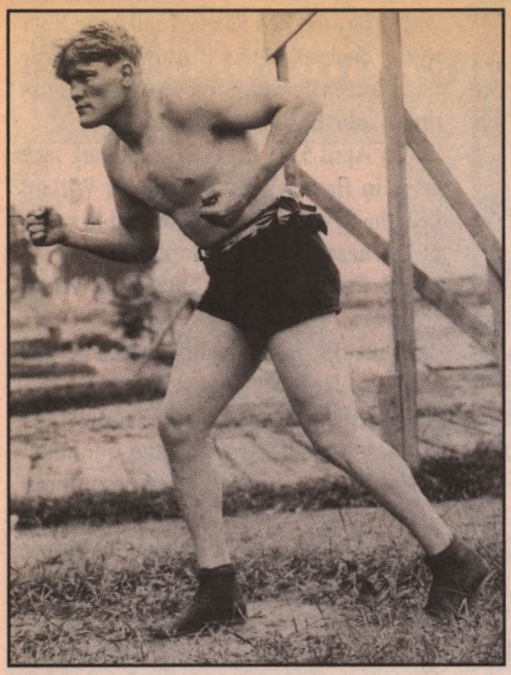
Willard's rise to the title, which he was to lose to Jack Dempsey at Toledo on July 4, 1919, did not ring a bell for the automatic cessation of effort by the quondam White Hopes. Those who had been drawn into boxing by the White Hope excitement continued with their careers. But an era had died. A new era, a bigger and greater one, was in the offing.

Cassius Clay disposed of George Chuvalo in Toronto, and scheduled a few other defenses of the world heavyweight title, draft officials willing. We are reminded of a speech delivered by "The Louisville Lip" at the New York boxing writers' dinner early in 1965.

Sitting alongside Clay on the dais were Jack Dempsey and Gene Tunney, a pair of former heavyweight champions whose two battles for the title, in Philadelphia in 1926 and Chicago in 1927, attracted total



Luther McCarty, on the right, was probably the best prospect to "restore the prestige of the white race." McCarty, however, was tragically killed in this bout against Arthur Pelkey in one round.



Iowa strongboy Al Palzer was another possibility many thought might beat Johnson. But he too died tragically, when he was shot and killed by his drunken father while trying to stop a domestic dispute.

turnouts of 225,700 witnesses, and gross receipts of $4,554,393. Had television been in existence in those days, the revenue for the two bouts likely would have reached, if not passed, $10-million.

Thinking of the tremendous possibilities of a "mixed" match now, with an exciting white opponent threatening his precious laurels, Clay guessed the fight would represent $30-million in receipts, and he yearned for another "White Hope Era," such as the one precipitated by Johnson's triumph over Jeffries.

The clamor for a white heavyweight to beat Johnson and "restore the prestige of the white race" produced plenty of excitement. Any Caucasian with the size, strength, stamina, and punch was eligible for a tryout, and just about everybody who was anybody in the promotional and managerial fields scrambled for possible entries. Prospects came from every conceivable line of industry—railroad yards, farms, cattle ranches, lumber camps, docks, streetcars, and office buildings.

Boxing was loaded with enterprising individuals—Billy McCarney, Tom O'Rourke, Charley Harvey, Jimmy Johnston, Billy Gibson, Tom Jones, Jack Curley, Otto Floto, Tex Rickard, Tom McCarey, and scores of others, all experienced in the trade as promoters, managers, and ballyhoo artists.

Carl Morris of Oklahoma, a railroad fireman, was one of the early products. The powerfully built Morris, operating in his native territory, launched his career with an impressive string of knockouts. One of his victims was a former claimant of the heavyweight title, Hart. Morris stopped Hart in three rounds in Sapulpa, Oklahoma. Also in Sapulpa, Morris halted another top-rated veteran, Mike Schreck, in six rounds.

With a string of seven straight knockouts, Morris, in the wake of tremendous national publicity, was brought to New York and pitted against the veteran Fireman Jim Flynn in Madison Square Garden. The smaller but seasoned Flynn handed him a terrific lacing, and eliminated the Oklahoma giant from serious consideration as a title possibility.

Al Palzer, a native of Iowa, was another powerful mastodon who made up in toughness and durability what he may have lacked in technique. Palzer won an elimination tournament in New York, and was selected to face a British visitor, Bombardier Billy Wells, in the latter's American debut in Madison Square Garden.

Wells, an impressive physical specimen, and an exceptional boxer in the classic British mode, but handicapped by a lack of ruggedness, had begun his ring career while serving with the British army in India. Returning to England, he had become British champion before emigrating to the U.S. With an artistic exhibition of clever boxing and snappy punching, Wells outclassed Palzer in the first round, dropping him twice. But the transplanted Iowan, now living in Minnesota, refused to admit defeat. Palzer staggered Wells in the third, and finally knocked him out.

Probably the best prospect among the early White Hopes was Luther McCarty, a former cowpuncher in Nebraska, who rose 6'4" in altitude and scaled a solid 205 pounds. Handled by Billy McCarney, McCarty began with an impressive punching record, accounting for 12 knockouts in his first 14 outings. Among his victims was Morris, whom he polished off in six rounds in Springfield, Missouri.

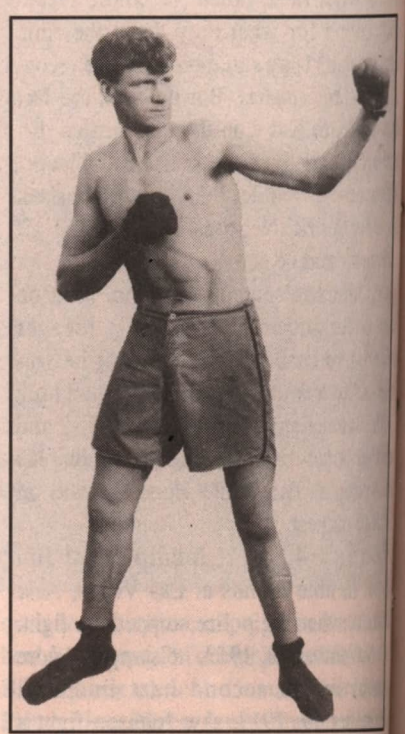
Inevitably, McCarty headed east, boxing several no-decision bouts in Philadelphia, New York, and Pittsburgh, but failed to arouse the populace to any undue outbursts of enthusiasm. He was still learning his trade, however, and on a subsequent jaunt to California he wrecked Al Kaufman in San Francisco and Flynn in Vernon, then a suburb of Los Angeles.

By the end of 1912, McCarty and Palzer were considered the best of the White Hopes. On January 1, 1913, they ushered in the new year by clashing in Vernon for what was advertised as the "White Heavyweight Championship." McCarty won, stopping Palzer in the 18th round. On another jaunt to the East, McCarty outpointed Flynn in Philadelphia and Frank Moran in New York.

On May 24, 1913, the Nebraskan journeyed to Calgary, in western Canada, for what figured to be an easy win. His opponent was Arthur Pelkey, an ordinary journeyman. Former world champion Burns was handling Pelkey, and he also was co-promoter of the bout.

The affair ended quickly and tragically. It had hardly started when Pelkey landed a left hook of no real force. They clinched, and on the break McCarty slumped to the canvas. Howls of "Boo" and "Fake" echoed throughout the arena.

As Referee Ed Smith, Chicago sports



Gunboat Smith attracted some attention when he floored Johnson during a workout. Despite a victory over Willard, Smith blew his shot against Johnson when he lost to Frenchman Georges Carpentier on a disqualification.

writer and a referee of note, imported for the occasion, started to count over McCarty, the sun suddenly shot its rays through the glass roof of the building, and pointed at the prostrate body of the fallen McCarty. The Nebraskan never recovered consciousness. It was later revealed that he had suffered severe head injuries a short time before when he was thrown from a horse, and they were held responsible for his tragic ending.

Willard was selected for his size, strength, and endurance, though he suffered losses to Smith and Tom Cowley.

It could be mentioned that McCarty's former rival, Palzer, also met a tragic finish, but not in the ring. On July 26, 1914, while trying to stop a quarrel between his parents at their home in Minnesota, Palzer was shot and fatally wounded by his father, who had been drinking.

With the untimely passings of McCarty and Palzer, the White Hope campaign resumed. There seemed to be no shortage of ambitious white giants, and promoters had no difficulty keeping their tournaments going. In all truth, many of the Hopes were anything but; however, they all contributed to the excitement of the era. And the law of averages eventually had to exert itself. Out of the lot, there had to emerge some fairly capable mechanics.

Gunboat Smith, for one, created quite a stir for a while. Coming out of the Navy, the Gunner first attracted serious attention when, in a workout with champion Johnson in San Francisco, he had the satisfaction of flooring "The Galveston Giant."

Smith actually was only a light heavyweight, but he packed a prodigious clout in his right fist. It was dubbed the "Occipital Punch," but the Gunner preferred calling it the "'ospital Punch." It flattened many a big one, and helped to beat Moran and Willard in San Francisco.

The Gunner's luck finally ran out on him, however, and he never quite realized his early promise, although he did claim the "White" title when he knocked out Pelkey in Daly City, California, seven months after Pelkey's tragic meeting with McCarty. Smith blew his claim, however, later that year when he lost to the Frenchman, Georges Carpentier, on a disqualification in London.

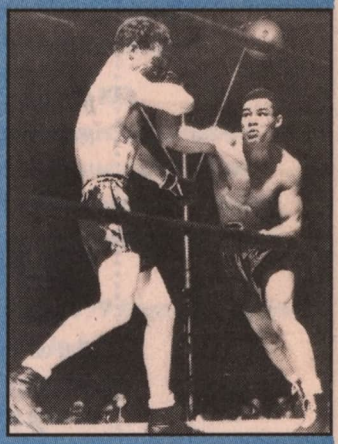
When Johnson, hibernating in Paris, finally was prevailed upon to defend his laurels, it was Willard who was picked to meet him. Willard was selected despite defeats by Smith in San Francisco and Tom Cowley in Youngstown, but promoter Curley felt that Willard had the size, the strength, and the endurance that the lighter Smith lacked, and that in a 45-round brawl, Willard's physical assets could be a deciding factor. ■

THE RING, July 1966

The Cover: This issue raised a familiar question: Who *really* won the fight? This time, the combatants were Emile Griffith and Dick Tiger. Griffith came away with a unanimous decision, though he should have lost according to most of the press. The surprise verdict gave welterweight champ Griffith the middleweight crown as well, making him THE RING's Fighter of the Month.

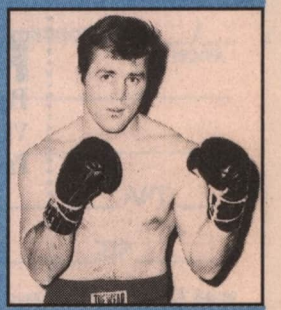
The Bus Stops Here: The light heavyweight title was often considered a mere bus stop on the way to a shot at the heavyweight title. The big money is with the heavyweights, and many light heavy champs have tried to cash in. Archie Moore, pictured against Rocky Marciano 1955, was one of the many who failed to claim boxing's ultimate prize.

Almost Fiddled Away: There have been many people who have taken credit for helping Joe Louis become a boxing immortal—and many stories involving how "The Brown Bomber" got his start in boxing. One story detailed in THE RING deals with how Louis *(pictured vs. Billy Conn)* was talked out of taking violin lessons in favor of boxing.



Canada's Ring King: Canadian Blair Richardson became the new British Empire middleweight champion with a decision victory over Gomeo Brennan in a bout strangely scheduled for 13 rounds. It was the greatest victory to that point of the 10-year ring veteran's career.

Young Quarry On The Rise: THE RING's California report included the rise of a young heavyweight who seemed to be knocking out everyone he faced. Jerry Quarry's second-round kayo of George "Scrapiron" Johnson further convinced boxing experts that Quarry was a heavyweight champ in the making.

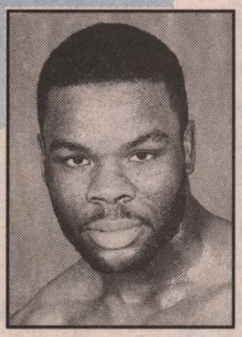


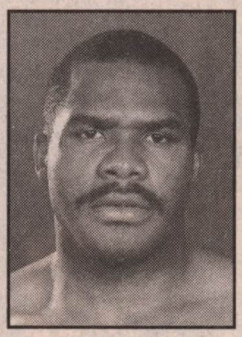
LOOKING AHEAD

By Eric Raskin

A NOVEMBER TO REMEMBER

In this year stuffed full of superfights, HBO/TVKO is working to stuff boxing fans full before Thanksgiving dir comes by making November perhaps the most blockbuster month of all. Assuming all the negotiations lead to confro tions—and they did all look promising as we went to press—we'll be getting significant, intriguing matchups on the three Saturdays of the month, including two unification showdowns and a non-title clash may be the best of the bunch.





Grant-Ibeabuchi: The highlight of a mega-month

On November 6 in Las Vegas, **Naseem Hamed** should be taking his first step tow featherweight unification against WBC champ **Cesar Soto**, though a few monetary issues some debate over a rematch clause were holding up the official signing of the contract. Wh Soto isn't quite the best possible opponent for "The Prince"—we'd rather see Naz agai **Erik Morales** or **Freddie Norwood**—he does possess a sturdy chin, solid power, and endurance to make the late rounds dangerous. Certainly, he's a more appealing choice th IBF counterpart **Manuel Medina**, who was in the running initially.

Then, headlining a pay-per-view show from Las Vegas on the 13th, **Lennox Lewis** a **Evander Holyfield** will try to get it right and deliver to boxing a single, undisputed heav weight champion. There's a little less intrigue in this bout because we already saw these tw hook up eight months earlier, but the historical significance of putting the three belts together, even if they don't stay th way for long, cannot be overlooked.

And on November 20, assuming the money can be worked out, it looks like HBO will give us the heavyweight match th proves you don't need belts to make a boxing fan salivate: **Michael Grant** vs. **Ike Ibeabuchi**. Both would probably be soli favorites against Holyfield right now and roughly even money against Lewis, yet they're looking to risk their unbeate records before their title shots come to prove who's really the number-one contender.

If we keep our fingers crossed and say a little prayer before bed that these fights get finalized, this November's going give fight fans a whole lot to be thankful for.

LISTEN UP

Calzaghe: Coming to America

Mike Tyson's latest comeback will begin on October 2 against a not-too-threatening opponent on Showtime, taking the two-time ex-champ off pay-per-view for the first time in nearly four years. **Axel Schulz** was looking like the front-runner until he signed for a September 25 meeting with **Wladimir Klitschko** for the vacant European heavyweight title. That left Croatian **Zeljko Mavrovic** as the best bet to meet Tyson as we went to press ... HBO unveiled plans in June to work toward a spectacular junior middleweight unification showdown between Olympic teammates **Fernando Vargas** and **David Reid** next spring. HBO Sports Senior Vice President **Lou DiBella** was hoping to have the two unbeaten champions fight in separate bouts on an HBO doubleheader in November (there's that month again), and then square off in 2000 ... The rubber match between WBA middleweight champ **William Joppy** and former titleholder **Julio Cesar Green** is scheduled for September 25 on Joppy's home turf, Washington, D.C. ... THE RING's top-rated super middleweight Welshman **Joe Calzaghe**, will make his American debut on the pay-per-view undercard of **Oscar De La Hoya-Fel Trinidad** on September 18.

FUTURE FIGHTS

By Art Manteris

VP/Director of Race and Sports Operations Las Vegas Hilton SuperBook

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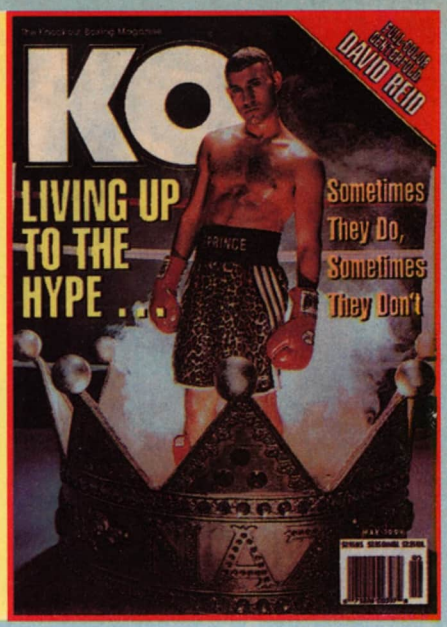
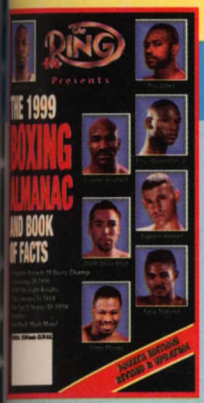
The Knockout Boxing Magazine Now Packs Some Extra Punch!





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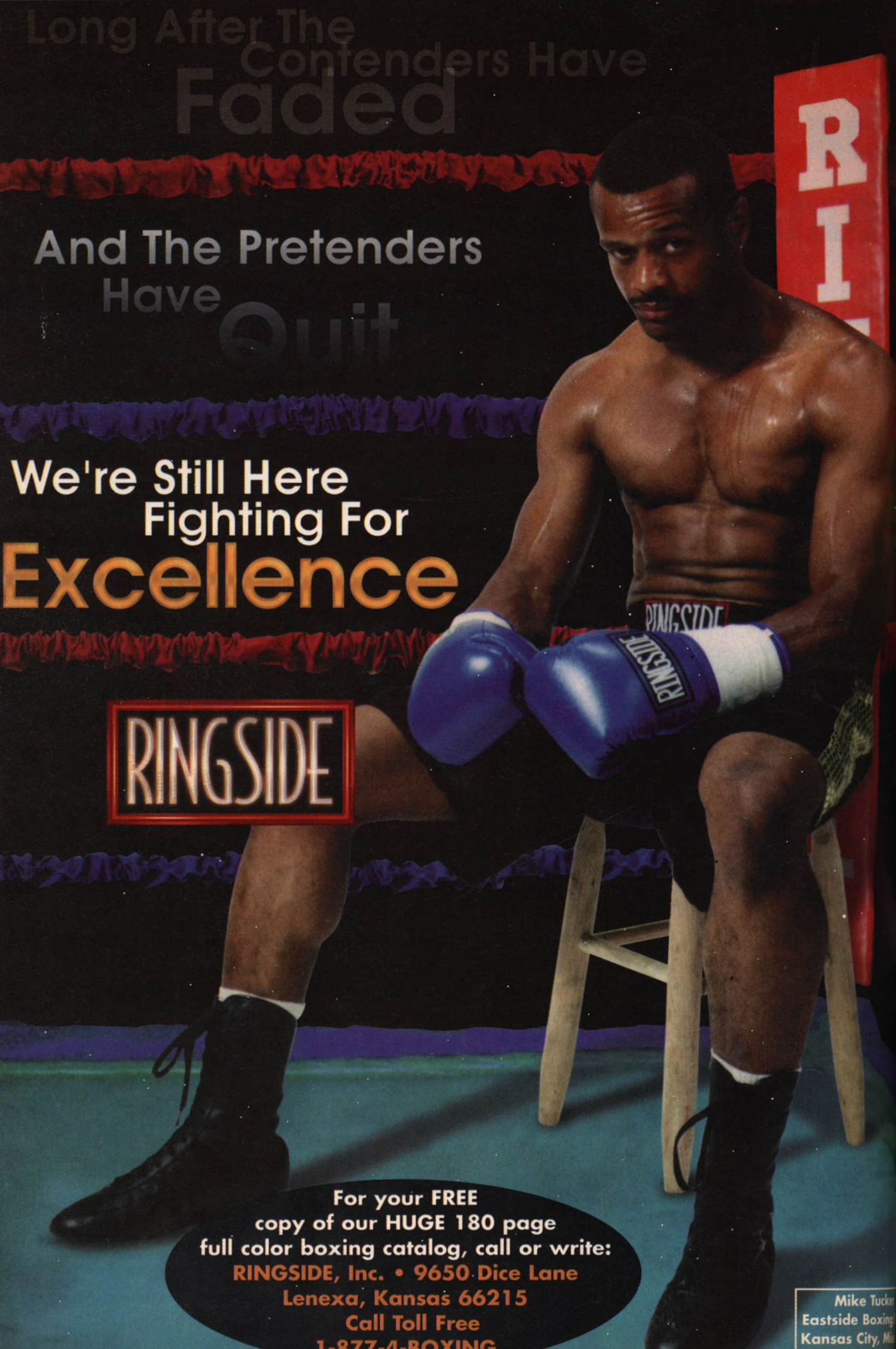
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